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## THE NELSON-KINDRED CAMPAIGN OF 1882<sup>1</sup>

Although there have been many acrimonious political campaigns in Minnesota since territorial days, the Nelson-Kindred congressional contest of 1882, which resulted in the election of Knute Nelson to represent the "Bloody Fifth District," stands out as the most strenuous congressional campaign in the history of the state, and it is in some respects the most dramatic political struggle in the annals of Minnesota. A study of this campaign is desirable both for its intrinsic interest and for the light which it throws upon political practices in Minnesota in the early eighties.

The census of 1880 permitted an increase of two members in Minnesota's delegation in Congress, giving the state a total representation of five in the lower house. Before this time Minneapolis and St. Paul and all the territory to the north and across the state had been included in the Third Congressional District. As a result of the reapportionment of 1881, the northern half of Minnesota, comprising at that time twenty-nine counties, became the Fifth Congressional District. A line drawn from Big Stone City to St. Cloud and thence to the eastern boundary of the state would indicate the southern limits of this large district.

Many ambitious political leaders lived in the Fifth Congressional District, but it was generally understood, when the legislature made the reapportionment, that Charles A. Gilman of St. Cloud, who had served as speaker of the House of Rep-

<sup>1</sup> Read at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, January 15, 1923. The author of this article, Mr. Elmer E. Adams, was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1884. Since then he has resided at Fergus Falls, where for more than a quarter of a century he edited the *Fergus Fall Journal*. For seven years he was a member of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota. Since 1905 Mr. Adams has served in the state legislature during five sessions; thus he has a first-hand acquaintance with Minnesota politics.—Ed.

representatives and was then lieutenant governor, would be chosen congressman from the new district. He was not, however, the only man residing in the district who had congressional aspirations. In Duluth, for example, there was Colonel Charles H. Graves, afterwards speaker of the Minnesota House and minister to Norway and Sweden. Another man of prominence in the same city was Judge Ozora P. Stearns, who had served for a short time as a United States senator by appointment in 1871. Others who were justified in entertaining congressional ambitions were Solomon G. Comstock of Moorhead, who later represented the district in Congress for one term; Andrew McCrea of Perham, who had been state senator for Otter Tail County in 1879; Knute Nelson of Alexandria, a state senator from 1875 to 1878; Alphonso Barto of Sauk Center, lieutenant governor of the state from 1874 to 1876; and former Governor Horace Austin; not to mention still others whose political records were of sufficient importance to make them possible candidates.

In view of the large number of Minnesota public men who were available for the congressional post, it is not strange that the appearance of Charles F. Kindred of Brainerd as a contender for the Republican nomination came as a distinct surprise. Kindred, a parvenu in state politics, had come out from Pennsylvania some ten years earlier to be chief clerk in the land department of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, with headquarters at Brainerd. To understand the importance of this position it is necessary to recall that the lands received by this company from the national government were equivalent to a strip of territory forty miles wide across the state of Minnesota and eighty miles wide across the Territory of Dakota, and included numerous town sites along the line of the railway. The office in which Kindred was employed under the land commissioner's direction had charge of the management and sale of the company's lands. For a man of Kindred's type it was an ideal place for the making of money. The lands



to be sold were among the most fertile in Minnesota and Dakota. Prices ranged from three to ten dollars per acre. The publicity attendant upon the later congressional campaign revealed the fact that Kindred utilized every method of profiting at the expense of the company which he was serving and of the people who were buying its lands. Payment could be made in the preferred stock of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, and this stock could be purchased at fifteen cents on the dollar. A settler purchasing a quarter section of land at five dollars per acre would pay the company eight hundred dollars for it. He had the alternative, however, of going out and buying eight hundred dollars' worth of the company's preferred stock for one hundred and twenty dollars and paying for his land with the paper thus secured.

It was apparently Kindred's practice, when a settler came to buy a section or a quarter section of land, to go out and purchase the stock and turn this in to the company, either taking the settler's money or accepting a mortgage upon the land, drawing a good rate of interest and covering the full amount asked by the railway company. In this way he was able to enrich himself very rapidly. In 1881 his manipulations of the company's business had become so flagrant that a committee of the board of directors was appointed to investigate his acts. The subsequent report of this committee was made the basis of a law suit which, although it was compromised, forced Kindred to return to the Northern Pacific a large amount of money, said to be about seventy-five thousand dollars, although it may have been much more. In any event, during the time when he acted as chief clerk he probably accumulated a fortune of a quarter of a million dollars and also acquired possession of large holdings of choice lands. He had a famous stock farm near Valley City where important demonstration work was carried on.

Upon the organization of the fifth district Kindred announced his desire to be its representative in Congress, and in

1882 he entered upon an active campaign.<sup>2</sup> From the very start he made it clear that he was prepared to pay the necessary price for a seat in Congress. Indeed, it was one of the bits of gossip afloat during the campaign that, on the occasion of a visit to Cushman K. Davis, Kindred stated that he had one hundred thousand dollars to spend to secure the election. Davis is reported to have replied that the best way in which to get results would be to visit Alexandria, call on a certain Norwegian in that place, and persuade the latter to withdraw from the race, for if he ever started Kindred would never land in Washington. Kindred did not visit Alexandria and did not go to Washington, but he appears not only to have expended the hundred thousand dollars, but to have promised to pay nearly as much more. No corrupt practices act was in existence to limit the campaign expenses which an unscrupulous candidate might incur.

According to those who knew him Kindred possessed a pleasing personality. He was a big, strong, genial fellow, trained in the political methods in vogue in Pennsylvania at that time. After his defeat in the Minnesota campaign of 1882 he returned to his native state, where he was employed by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company and was a leader in one of the large wards of Philadelphia. As soon as Kindred opened his campaign in the spring of 1882 for the Republican nomination the other candidates entered the field. They were Nelson, Graves, and Gilman. It soon became apparent, however, that the choice would lie between Kindred and Nelson or that a compromise candidate would be nominated.

After the creation of the new district the state central committee of the Republican party appointed a district committee which was to take charge of the party's interests until an or-

<sup>2</sup> His political career in Minnesota had been confined to acting as a delegate to the Republican national convention in 1880. It was expected that he would vote for the nomination of William Windom, but he gave his support to Grant for a third term.

ganization could be perfected by a party convention. This committee was composed of Colonel George H. Johnston of Detroit, chairman, Alphonso Barto of Sauk Center, S. G. Comstock of Moorhead, Judge Reuben Reynolds of Crookston, Lars K. Aaker of Alexandria, Adsit C. Hatch of Battle Lake, Howard C. Kendall of Duluth, Colonel C. B. Sleeper of Brainerd, and F. G. Tuttle of Ortonville.

The congressional convention was called to meet at Detroit on July 12. In considering the preparations made for this convention, the reader must remember that in the eighties no laws governed the actions of political parties. There were rules, to be sure, but even these were variously interpreted by political committees. The Australian ballot had not been adopted. At caucuses or conventions or even at general elections no official ballots were used. It was the business of the candidates to see that there were ballots at the voting places on the day of election and that their own names were upon these ballots. If by hook or by crook the ballots were removed, the voter had no way of casting his vote except by writing the names of the favored candidates on a piece of paper. The county committees called county conventions for the election of delegates to the district convention, but there was no regular time for the holding of these conventions nor were there any rules for the holding of caucuses to elect the township and village delegations to the county conventions. The result was that town committees might in some cases hold snap caucuses without encountering serious opposition. Early in the campaign of 1882 it became evident that Kindred proposed to win county delegations no matter what methods he had to employ.

A generation ago party "regularity" meant much more than it does in these days of independent voting and broken-down party lines. A man was not in good standing with his party unless he accepted the results of the caucuses and conventions and gave his support to those who were finally designated as nominees. After the fifth district Republican

convention in 1882, which will be described in this paper, two candidates claimed the nomination. Although most of the regular Republicans supported Knute Nelson, many who lived along the line of the Northern Pacific Railway gave their votes to Kindred.

As a matter of fact, Kindred's strength lay almost wholly in the Northern Pacific country. Travel north and south was far less common then than now, and consequently the area traversed by the railroad was almost isolated from the older and more settled territory to the south. Kindred had placed many men under obligation to him in his handling of the Northern Pacific lands, for he rendered favors to some while fleeing others. Speculators in land, who were eager to get the notes and examination reports which were in Kindred's charge, were numerous. He had aided many influential men in securing land and his favors had won for him a considerable legitimate support. The Brainerd region was solidly for him and he had a considerable following in and around Duluth.<sup>3</sup> It is interesting to note in this connection that St. Louis County, which had not yet developed its great mining enterprises, sent only three delegates to the Detroit convention, whereas Otter Tail, the most influential county in the district, sent nine. Kindred was able to develop some strength before and after the convention by putting forward candidates for county and legislative offices where there was no opposition to the candidates supporting Nelson. In the Northern Pacific territory Kindred did not have to exert great efforts to get delegates, and so he started out to secure the delegations in the Nelson territory, where the population was very largely Norwegian.

The first real clash occurred in Norman County where Kindred had secured the support of Frederick Puhler, a newspaper editor in Ada and chairman of the county committee.

<sup>3</sup> Among the most active supporters of Kindred were the two brothers, G. G. Hartley and W. W. Hartley of Brainerd, afterwards prominent throughout the state.

The latter issued a call for a county convention to be held in Ada on June 1. The call, which was formally issued on May 25, was published for the first time in Puhler's newspaper on the day before the convention. Puhler had hired all the teams in Ada in order to prevent the Nelson men from reaching the outside towns except on foot. It has been charged that he engaged teams and sent out men to get up snap caucuses for Kindred who himself came to Ada to help along the work. Of course no automobiles or telephones were available. Sharp practices notwithstanding, out of forty-three delegates who assembled on June 1 Nelson had twenty-eight, or a clear majority uncontested, Kindred had seven, and the remainder were contested.

Realizing their inexperience in political methods, the Nelson men held a rehearsal convention in the forenoon of the day on which the regular convention was to meet. They went through all the motions and proceedings of organization so that they would know what to do when the convention met at two o'clock in the afternoon. It has been alleged that the Kindred men attempted to buy off the Nelson delegates. Upon the failure of this attempt, Puhler ordered policemen at the door of the hall to admit only those who could show credentials received from him. But the Nelson contingent was too strong to be thus thwarted. As soon as the convention was called to order, the Nelson men nominated a chairman and Puhler refused to put the motion. A Kindred adherent was then nominated, and after putting the motion Puhler declared it carried. In the meantime a Nelson delegate put the motion for the nomination of one of his group who was then declared elected and who immediately took the chair. Puhler and his followers then left the hall and elected a delegation to Detroit. The Nelson forces completed the work of their convention.

This opening skirmish marked the beginning of a series of sharp clashes throughout the entire district, and in nearly every county two sets of delegates were chosen. By the press and people throughout the state it was generally conceded that

the Nelson delegates — save in three or four counties — had been regularly elected. Even Douglas County, Nelson's home county, was invaded by the Kindred men, but Colonel Sleeper tried in vain to secure a delegation from Alexandria. He was more successful in Stevens County. A lively row occurred at Hancock where Bronson Strain was chairman of the caucus. A wrangle between the two rival forces developed, during which a Kindred supporter hit the chairman in the eye with his fist. This was only one of the many pleasantries of the campaign which won for the district its name, "the Bloody Fifth." Sleeper also tried to carry the town of Morris for Kindred. The crews of two Northern Pacific gravel trains, stationed nearby, were brought in, but since the men were not residents they were not permitted to vote. This caused a contest, with the result that both Kindred and Nelson delegations were elected in Stevens County. In Morrison County Kindred was unable to win and Gilman secured the delegation. Nevertheless when the Detroit convention opened, a Kindred delegation from this county was on hand. Kindred had no success, however, in his attempts to carry Stearns County, the home of Gilman.

The convention in Otter Tail County numbered one hundred delegates, eighty-five of whom were for Nelson. Fifteen were for Kindred, who commanded some votes in the Perham district. The eighty-five met at the courthouse in Fergus Falls at the appointed time and elected nine delegates to the Detroit convention: George W. Boyington, Moses E. Clapp, H. E. Rawson, B. N. Johnson, Jacob Austin, Amund Leverson, A. C. Hatch, John G. Nelson, and Charles D. Baker. It will be noted that Otter Tail County had five more delegates than any other county in the district. The Kindred faction — fifteen in number — met at the Occidental Hotel and elected a delegation of nine to Detroit, none of whom, according to the Nelson men, were representative Republicans of the county.\* The

\* The delegation was composed of Frank Geoghagan, T. R. Williams, David L. Wellman, Theodore Anderson, E. L. Thomas, A. Scribner, Barney Griffith, L. A. Paddock, and John Gung.

Kindred delegates based their claim for a contest on the ground that the call did not state in what hall or building the convention was to be held. At the meeting in the courthouse, called by the chairman of the Republican county committee, Charles D. Wright, practically all the prominent Republicans of the county gathered. They were the men who had controlled and supported the party up to that time and who controlled it afterwards.

Considerable light on the situation is cast by the following comment of the *Fergus Falls Journal* for June 12, 1882:

Fergus Falls and Otter Tail County have been in the last few days witnesses of scenes of political corruption and dishonor fully equal to anything of which we have ever read, and worse than anything we have ever before seen. In comparison with it, Bill King's "strumpet of corruption" campaign has become respectable.

Enough has been said in previous issues of this paper to show our appreciation of Kindred's tactics in endeavoring to procure a false expression of public sentiment in this and other counties. He established a camp of corrupt strikers here at Fergus Falls a week ago, under the lead and direction of Puhler, the Norman county thief, who busily employed their time in endeavors to buy up a following in this city. A large bank account was submitted to heavy drafts every day. The largest saloon in the place was chartered, Kindred himself arrived Wednesday night, and all day Thursday he held a levee in the saloon or interviewed citizens in their back offices and at his hotel. In spite of all this work and of large amounts of money paid to individuals, in amounts of from \$10 to \$100 each, the caucuses of Fergus Falls on Friday evening were unanimous for Knute Nelson — money and whiskey had not produced even a ripple on the strong current of political sentiment in this place. Men had taken Kindred's money and then voted against him.

Nelson was in Fergus Falls on June 10, and after the caucuses, the crowd serenaded him at his hotel, and he delivered the following brief address:

*Friends and Fellow Citizens:* Allow me to thank you for the honor you have done me by carrying the caucuses in my favor. This has been in many respects a very peculiar campaign. Never in the history of this state or any part of it, have such means and



methods been resorted to to carry any nomination as are being used against me. I have not felt as if I were fighting for Knute Nelson, or any other little Norwegian, but for a principle.

You deserve credit for standing so firm against the influences that have been brought to bear. The great principle is not what man is to go to congress, but whether the office is to be put up at auction and knocked off to the highest bidder. (applause) If they had attacked my ability and suitableness, I would not speak; there are many men in this district, aye, here in Fergus Falls, plenty of congressional material, as able as I, and if the campaign had been conducted in the usual spirit I would not complain, but it has been put upon a money basis, and it is your duty to put your foot down. The question is whether none but a millionaire can go to congress, or whether you will allow yourselves to be knocked down with a bag of gold. (applause) You have stood well to your guns. As soon as it was decided to hold the convention at Detroit, Kindred endeavored to engage all the hotel room in that town, so as to exclude me and my friends. These tactics have been carried on every where but here they have amounted to only a flash in the pan. If I am nominated and elected, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, I will endeavor to "do the right as God gives me to see the right." (applause.)<sup>\*</sup>

The situation in Fergus Falls was similar to that in other counties and, as the various conventions were held, it became perfectly apparent that the congressional convention at Detroit would be a political gathering worth attending. It will be noticed that the first county convention in the district was held on June 1 at Ada in Norman County. The Otter Tail County convention was held on June 10. Not until July 12 did the district convention meet. This wide range in the time of holding the county conventions allowed unusual and undesirable practices to creep in. During the ante-convention campaign Kindred was always very good to the correspondents and newspaper reporters and as a result the dispatches and reports did not carry a correct description of the situation as it was developing throughout the district. Not until the Detroit con-

<sup>\*</sup> The speech is printed in the *Fergus Falls Journal* for June 12, 1882. A few obvious misprints and errors in the newspaper report have been corrected.



vention had been held did the Republican organs of the state definitely take sides and declare editorially what policy the party ought to pursue. After the Detroit convention the *Daily Pioneer Press* of St. Paul, the *Tribune* of Minneapolis, and the *Duluth Tribune* came out strongly against the Kindred methods and were equally vigorous in their support of Nelson, using every available argument to further the latter's candidacy.

The congressional convention, to be made up of seventy-eight delegates, was called to meet at Detroit on July 12, 1882. Detroit was then a town of about fifteen hundred and its hotel and auditorium facilities were somewhat limited, hardly adequate for the regular delegates, not to speak of the contesting delegates and the crowd of spectators. The only hotel in the town which amounted to very much was run by an old soldier. A month before the convention Kindred had rented this entire hotel, but the landord had a fellow feeling for a comrade in arms and so he reserved one room for Nelson. When it became practically certain that two conventions would be held, the Nelson men secured a large circus tent for sleeping purposes — as they claimed — and had it erected immediately across from the hall where the convention was to be held. Large numbers of people came to Detroit for the convention. Kindred believed in music and so he had two bands on hand, one from Fargo and the other from Brainerd. Fearing a disturbance, he also brought a considerable number of special policemen from the same cities, and the adherents of Nelson were unkind enough to brand them as thugs. In any event they were there "to maintain order."

On July 11 the district committee met to plan a *modus vivendi* for the organization of the convention. Colonel Johnston, the chairman of the committee, claimed that he favored Nelson, but it was known by all that he was supporting Kindred. The committee failed to accomplish anything and consequently adjourned until the next morning at eight o'clock. On the morning of the twelfth the Kindred members of the

committee failed to appear and much time was spent in trying to assemble the committee. Finally it convened and a resolution embodying the names of the duly-elected delegates to the convention was offered. In this list the names of Kindred men appeared only for the Kindred counties. Colonel Johnston refused to put the resolution to a vote and announced that he would be governed by no instructions. Comstock, a member of the committee, then called for a vote, and the resolution was carried five to three. Colonel Johnston defied the committee, announcing that he would organize a convention according to his own ideas, whereupon the committee, adopting the only course left to it, deposed Johnston from the chairmanship by a vote of five to four and elected Barto in his stead.<sup>6</sup> The deposition of Johnston made it apparent that there was going to be a lively row over the control of the convention hall. There was a rush to get possession of it and, although a large number of Kindred's special police were on guard, a good many of the Nelson men gained admittance.<sup>7</sup> As Kindred had practically a full complement of contesting delegates, he had enough to make a full-sized convention of his own.

Barto, the new committee chairman, was a very fleshy man with a big heart and a large stomach, kindly in disposition, but

<sup>6</sup> The question whether or not a committee had the right to depose a chairman in this manner was warmly discussed in the ensuing campaign. James G. Blaine, to whom the matter was referred, decided that a committee could remove the chairman. The editor of the *Tribune* of Minneapolis, General A. Bayard Nettleton, submitted the question to Edward McPherson, the parliamentarian of the national House of Representatives. McPherson's views coincided with those of Blaine. Senator Sumner had been removed as chairman of the Senate committee on foreign affairs because he refused to obey the committee's instructions, and Senator Cameron was elected in his place. Schuyler Colfax, speaker of the national House of Representatives and vice president under Grant, also supported the right of the committee to remove its chairman.

<sup>7</sup> According to Harlan P. Hall the "Kindred men, to guard against accidents, had smuggled a force into the hall at 11 a. m., and they had lunch sent in and camped there. When the Nelson men marched in a body from the tent to the hall they were astonished to find all the front seats occupied." Hall, *Observations: Being More or Less a History of Political Contests in Minnesota from 1849 to 1904*, 287 (St. Paul, 1904).

a little easy and a bit groggy when it came to unusual activity in getting possession of a platform. When the delegates convened, Johnston and Barto both appeared on the platform. Each called for nominations for chairman of the convention. Neither stopped to read the call. One of the Nelson men nominated Comstock and Barto put the motion. At the same time one of the Kindred faction named Elon G. Holmes of Detroit for chairman and Johnston put this motion. Everybody voted aye, and thus both Holmes and Comstock were elected chairman.<sup>8</sup> Both went to the stage and attempted to proceed with the convention's business, but from that time on pandemonium ruled.

Johnston announced that he had hired the hall in his own name and not on behalf of the committee. He therefore demanded that the Nelson men who were disturbing the convention should be put out of the hall. Comstock attempted to keep his position and Holmes ordered his arrest. The sheriff of Becker County made certain maneuvers and Comstock announced, "I yield to the majesty of the law." "The Nelson men," as Holmes puts it, "then withdrew to the tent which they had already prepared as their meeting place."

Harlan P. Hall, editor of the *St. Paul Globe*, which at that time was the Democratic organ of the state and a newspaper which always printed the things which the Republicans did not want printed but which the people liked to read, was present to report the convention. In his *Observations*, written some twenty years later, Hall said of this collision, known as the "duel convention":

Every one seemed to be yelling at the same time. Holmes and Comstock stood side by side and their respective adherents would rush to the front and make motions which the chairman would declare carried. After about five minutes of this scene, ex-

<sup>8</sup> One report states that when Comstock was elected chairman, Soren Listoe of Fergus Falls, who was a Kindred supporter, called out to Kindred, who stood outside a window of the hall, "Comstock has been made chairman"; and an affidavit has been made that Kindred called back, "Clean him out and recognize but one chairman."

Sheriff Mertz, of Brainerd, a very resolute man and a warm friend of Kindred, jumped on the platform and, grabbing Comstock, tried to pull him off, saying, "You have no business here." It was scarcely a second before 30 or 40 men were on the stage to aid Comstock and Mertz respectively, and they were a good deal hustled about. Comstock stood his ground well and resisted being dragged off the platform, but did not strike a blow. The crowd had overturned the reporters' table and we had mounted an extemporized table to get a view of the fight. As the excitement was at its highest, crash went our table and we were all tumbled promiscuously to the floor. I believe that little accident was providential. It made a laugh, and laughter and anger are not close friends. It also diverted attention for a moment and by the time we had picked ourselves up from the floor, the sheriff, with 10 or 12 deputies, was on the platform commanding the peace and hustling men off the stage. . . . Johnson finally shouted an order to clear the stage of every one but the committee and the reporters. That would have removed both Holmes and Comstock. He said he had hired the hall and would have it cleared. On this announcement a Nelson man shouted: "I move the convention adjourn to the tent on the prairie." Comstock put the motion and declared it carried. . . . H. L. Gordon, of Minneapolis (not a delegate or even a resident of the district) mounted a chair and urged the Nelson, Graves and Gilman men to leave. A deputy sheriff grabbed him and escorted him to the door as a disturber of the peace.\*

Comstock carried his right to be chairman to the tent and took charge of the Nelson convention. As neither chairs nor tables were available, it was a case of standing room only. The district committee had acted as a committee on credentials and the delegates named by them were given seats, but not chairs. There were representatives from twenty counties, leaving the eight counties which were unquestionably for Kindred unrepresented. A platform was adopted which breathed loyalty to the party and its principles and denounced Kindred. Halvor Steenerson of Crookston then nominated Knute Nelson, Colonel Daniel G. Cash presented the name of Colonel Graves, and Barto nominated Gilman. Graves and Gilman had remained in the race thinking that Nelson and Kindred

\* Hall, *Observations*, 288-290.

would so divide the delegates that a third man would be a necessity, but they had allied themselves with the Nelson wing. In the balloting Nelson received forty-four votes, Graves seven, and Gilman ten. Nelson was accordingly declared the nominee of the convention and made a speech of acceptance. Gilman, Graves, Hanford L. Gordon, and Albert Scheffer made ratification speeches, and the Nelson campaign was launched.

While Nelson was being nominated in the tent, the Kindred men were taking action in the hall. As Nelson's supporters were withdrawing from the hall, Holmes announced that the only regular convention would be in the hall, but no Nelson man halted. Colonel Sleeper nominated Kindred in a glowing speech and no other name was presented. The roll call gave him sixty-four votes, and he was declared the nominee. After both conventions were over, Nelson, in company with "Thundering" Gordon, called on Kindred at the latter's hotel, but the call was only formal, and after a few pleasantries they separated and the battle was renewed.

That evening was a lively one and a wild one in Detroit. The Volstead Act had not been passed and Detroit had always been wet. Kindred's brass bands paraded about the town with Kindred and Colonel Sleeper riding in a hack at the head of the procession. The women of Detroit, realizing that the crowd would have to be fed and desiring to make a little money for the cleaning up of the cemetery, held a supper, and it is said that Kindred, with his usual generosity, contributed one hundred dollars to the fund.

After the Detroit convention, there was a great deal of speculation as to what the Democrats in the district would do. The Democrats were never very strong in the Fifth Congressional District outside of Stearns County, the voters of which were so addicted to voting the Democratic ticket that they often voted against a Democrat if he was not properly labeled. The Kindred men were anxious that there should be no Democratic congressional candidate, for they expected the Democrats to vote for their candidate, who had received much Democratic support for his convention. The Nelson adherents,

while somewhat indifferent, preferred that a Democratic candidate should be put in the field. In any event a Democratic congressional convention was held at Fergus Falls on September 6. Colin F. Macdonald of St. Cloud presided. After the preliminaries, Sheriff M. Mickley of Stearns County nominated Edward P. Barnum of Sauk Center. Other names offered were Robert Miller of Otter Tail and R. C. Moore of Stevens. An informal ballot gave Barnum fifty out of eighty-eight votes. He was declared nominated and all efforts on the part of Kindred to get him out of the field were useless.

After the Detroit convention the two factions had become so embittered that there was no such thing as harmonizing them. The contest could only be settled at the polls. Much effort was expended in attempting to show which was the regular nominee. The first six weeks after the Detroit convention were spent in organizing and in preparing campaign materials, and thereupon the speech-making campaign began.

A Nelson campaign manual of about fifty pages, prepared by Gordon, a well-known political character and an able writer, was the most important political document of the campaign. It told the full details of Kindred's connection with the Northern Pacific Railway and its lands, and the history of his efforts to control the different county conventions. It also included an account of the Detroit convention and presented the opinions of parliamentarians regarding the regularity of the convention. The document was signed by Gilman, who, as chairman of the congressional committee, conducted the Nelson campaign.<sup>10</sup> The Kindred forces got out a printed sheet containing various charges against Nelson which was supplied to speakers and newspapers. It charged Nelson with party irregularity, claim jumping, drunkenness, licentiousness, and other faults. In reply to the charge that Nelson had jumped the claim of a man when he came to Alexandria his friends

<sup>10</sup> *An Address to the Voters of the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota* (46 p.). Twenty-five thousand copies of this pamphlet were printed, but only two are now known to be in existence, one of which has been presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by Senator Nelson.

showed the contract by which he purchased and paid for a relinquishment of the land. They also sent to Wisconsin and got the proofs that he had not bolted a convention as was claimed. It is related that Judge John W. Willis of St. Paul, one of the leading Democratic orators of the state, spoke at Fergus Falls, and in his address he would first pick up the Kindred document and read about Nelson and then he would pick up the Nelson document and read about Kindred and, at frequent intervals, he would remark, "I don't know anything about either of the candidates but, if what they say about each other is true, then you ought to vote for Barnum, the Democratic candidate." <sup>11</sup>

Kindred could not get the support of as many newspapers as he desired and so he started three or four papers, one or two of them in the Norwegian language. It was at Kindred's instance, for example, that the *Fergus Falls Daily Telegram* was started, under the direction of H. P. Hall of the *St. Paul Globe*.

Although there were many speakers on the stump, Mr. Nelson carried the brunt of the campaign. He spoke in almost

<sup>11</sup> A circular printed in a Norwegian printing office in Fergus Falls and widely circulated sarcastically suggests the following reasons why Knute Nelson should be supported for Congress:

He is employed to drive the poor settlers off their lands after they have made valuable improvements on them.

He is the attorney for the Millers' association of Minneapolis, and through that corporation robs every wheat farmer of a portion of his crop when he brings it to market.

He stood on the fence when the bill came up in the legislature to extend the St. Paul and Pacific railroad through Otter Tail and Douglas counties until several thousand acres of land were transferred to him.

He has agreed to change his residence to Fergus in return for the support of the Fergus voters.

He is buying his way to congress, using more money and in the most corrupt manner ever known in American politics.

He is an infidel!

He don't believe in God!!

He don't keep his promises to man.

He is not an American!!

He persecutes church people.

He threatens to disrupt the republican party by running independently in case he cannot buy or bulldoze a regular nomination.

A copy of this circular has been presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by Senator Nelson.



every county of the great district, an arduous undertaking when one recalls the lack of transportation facilities in those days. He held his first meeting of the campaign on October 2 at Thomson, a village near Duluth. The gathering was held in a schoolhouse and, while he was speaking from the teacher's platform with the usual blackboard behind it, someone threw an egg at him, but Nelson quickly dodged it and it splashed against the blackboard. At a hall where Nelson spoke in Verndale, Wadena County, a trap had been made in the middle of the speaker's platform by the sawing out of the supports, so that when Nelson stepped upon that particular spot he would disappear underneath the platform. There was a big Norwegian lumberjack by the name of Hendrickson in the town who had been working with Clarence E. Bullard, who was making the arrangements. Before the meeting began, Hendrickson's Norwegian blood got the better of him and he told Bullard that if he allowed Nelson to step on the trap and go through it, he would thrash him within an inch of his life. This made such an impression on Bullard that he told Nelson to avoid stepping on a certain weak portion of the platform, and the meeting was conducted without disturbance. Such incidents show the character of the campaigning in those days. One Nelson meeting was held in Brainerd, Kindred's own stronghold. Nelson and thirty or forty of his supporters appeared on the platform before an audience composed entirely of Kindred adherents. Of the men on the platform Nelson was the only one who did not carry a gun. He said he had never carried one since the Civil War.

As the campaign progressed it became reasonably certain that Nelson would win. He had the support of all the candidates who had opposed him at Detroit save Kindred. He spoke in all the principal towns between St. Vincent and Duluth, arousing great enthusiasm in some places and bitterness in others. During the campaign there was widespread interest in Nelson's personality and a number of incidents which aroused the sympathy and support of the people were brought to light. A farmer wrote to the *Fergus Falls Journal*:



In the winter of '63 the 4th Wisconsin cavalry was stationed at Baton Rouge, La. I was a member of Co. G and Knute Nelson was a member of Co. B, and by his frank, manly, and fearless bearing so won the good will of all that he became a general favorite with officers and soldiers. One evening at "water call," as I was going to the river to water my horse, I saw a soldier of Co. E snatch a paper from a newsboy and gallop towards camp. Knute Nelson happened to be passing close by and hastily *paying the boy for the paper*, he started off on a gallop, overtook the Co. E. man and demanded the paper as his property. Nelson was hardly more than a boy at the time and I expected he would get into trouble as the other was a very rough fellow, but Nelson's fearless manner so cowed him that he gave up the paper and submitted to a lecture that ought to have made him a wiser and better man. The incident impressed me strongly at the time as showing the stuff the Norwegian boy was made of, and it would take a great deal to make me believe that Knute Nelson would stoop to trickery or double dealing. Let me say just here that I have not seen Mr. Nelson since the war, and have no interest in his election further than all should feel in seeing honest men elected to our national legislature.<sup>12</sup>

This is an example of many incidents which tended to popularize the "little Norwegian" with the people of his district.<sup>13</sup> Generous as was Kindred, nothing that his adherents could do or say for him endeared him to the people or aroused that kindly feeling which Nelson enjoyed.

While Kindred was spending his money by the thousands there was undoubtedly the utmost poverty in the Nelson camp and Nelson himself says that he was even short of funds for the necessary expenses of the campaign. The writer found among some correspondence between Nelson and several residents of Ada, Norman County, a letter and a reply which throw light on the situation in the Nelson camp. Alexander Running of Ada had engaged Knute Sandvig to render some

<sup>12</sup> The writer of this letter, which is published in the issue of the *Journal* for September 14, 1882, was S. V. Beebe, who resided in St. Olaf township, Otter Tail County.

<sup>13</sup> The phrase "little Norwegian" was first used by Kindred. The adherents of Nelson made capital out of the sneer, pointing out that Nelson was "American in heart and interest," and that he "fought for the land of his adoption."

service for Nelson. The money to pay Sandvig was very slow in arriving and the latter wrote a letter to Nelson urgently requesting payment. Nelson explained in his reply that as soon as he returned to his home after the Detroit convention he attempted to raise money to meet the bills which had been incurred. "I am now glad to say," he writes, "by reason of the sale of a piece of land yesterday, I am able to send the money to Mr. Running which I hope he has received by this time. . . . I regret that my means are so limited that I could not pay on a moment's notice but I feel conscious of doing the best, the very best I could." The total amount of Running's bill, including the Sandvig and other items, was \$98.40. Senator Nelson states himself that it is his opinion that not more than five thousand dollars was spent by the committee and by all others in behalf of his candidacy. A tremendous amount of effort, energy, and good will was put into the contest gratuitously by those who were friendly to Nelson and who were angered by the crude methods used by Kindred and his adherents.

Governor Lucius F. Hubbard was prevailed upon by Kindred's legal advisor, Cushman K. Davis, to establish some voting precincts in the pineries north of Aitkin and Grand Rapids. This caused the Nelson people to fear that there would be illegal voting in these localities, in as much as election regulations were crude. There was no adequate registration nor were there any regular forms of ballots. The lumber precincts were recognized as Kindred precincts and the returns were delayed for several days. In order to circumvent possible frauds, C. A. Gilman of St. Cloud, Alfred B. Brackett of St. Paul, and Ole Amundson of Evansville, went north to the pineries to watch the returns. It was charged that the Kindred men were holding back these returns until they could learn how large a majority they had to overcome in the counties to the south. As returns, even in the older settlements, came in slowly, this naturally meant delay. When the returns did come in, however, the majority for Nelson was so large that the Kindred forces gave up the struggle. They realized that

they could not secure from the pine precincts a large enough vote to overcome the majority in the district as a whole. When the returns from Itasca County finally came in they stood: Nelson, 2; Barnum, 8; Kindred, 683. The final vote for the district gave Nelson a majority of 4,718 over Kindred. The results were: Nelson, 16,956; Kindred, 12,238; and Barnum, 6,248. All the western counties were carried by Nelson. Barnum carried Stearns County. Kindred had majorities in Mille Lacs, Morrison, Wadena, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, and Itasca counties.

No national issues had played important parts in the campaign. Some reference was made to the tariff issue, but practically all the time was taken up in discussing the quarrel between the two factions. When the contest was over no issue had been settled except that the people of Minnesota would not knowingly allow anyone to buy his way into the halls of Congress. The career of Kindred was terminated so far as Minnesota was concerned and the door of opportunity was opened to Knute Nelson, whose public service to the state as congressman, governor, and senator was to span almost a half century.<sup>14</sup>

ELMER E. ADAMS

FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

<sup>14</sup> It is of historical interest to note that Kindred died recently in Philadelphia. Senator Nelson, Mr. Comstock, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Gilman, and Colonel Graves, all of whom were prominent during the campaign, are alive today, and the writer has been in communication with them in connection with the preparation of this paper. Several important documents received by the writer from Senator Nelson have been presented to the Minnesota Historical Society. Of these the most interesting is, perhaps, a memorandum book kept by Mr. Nelson during the campaign, containing miscellaneous notes and jottings and an "epitome of speech" which apparently was the basis of many of the speeches delivered by the candidate between October 1 and November 6, 1882. An accompanying paper lists the places—thirty in all—at which Mr. Nelson spoke. A series of important letters in his correspondence with Alexander Running of Ada throws light on the financial difficulties encountered by Mr. Nelson. Another item of interest is a copy for November 2, 1882, of *Tiden*, a Kindred organ published in the Norwegian language at Fergus Falls.

## THE 1923 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The seventy-fourth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society on January 15 followed the general plan of last year's meeting, with morning, afternoon, and evening sessions at which papers were read and discussions held on various subjects in the field of Minnesota history. The unusually large attendance at these sessions is an indorsement of the plan initiated in 1921 and is one of numerous recent indications of the growing popular interest in the history of the state.

A notable attendance from outside the Twin Cities contributed in no small measure to the success of the meeting. Among the fifty persons who were present at the opening session, which was devoted to the third annual conference on local history work in Minnesota, were representatives of local history interests in Blue Earth, Chisago, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, Ramsey, Red Lake, Redwood, Renville, Rice, St. Louis, and Yellow Medicine counties. This conference, which was held at 10:00 A. M. in the auditorium of the society's building, opened with a discussion on the subject of "State Parks and Memorials in Relation to Local History Interest," led by Mr. Ray P. Chase, state auditor. Mr. Chase first pointed out that most of the state parks and memorial sites in Minnesota are at present under the supervision of a fiscal officer, the state auditor, who is ex officio land commissioner. Although the state already has expended approximately eight hundred thousand dollars for the purchase and maintenance of its parks and historic places, no real system has been worked out and adopted for their administration. The setting aside of natural beauty spots for the pleasure and recreation of the people and the adequate marking and preservation of historic sites are matters which, if they are worth doing at all, merit careful planning and expert, centralized administration. After calling

attention to the methods employed in caring for state parks in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania, and nearer home in Wisconsin and Iowa, Mr. Chase urged the desirability of locating state parks in accordance with some definite plan, of standardizing their equipment, and of administering them uniformly. He asserted that a program is needed which will anticipate the future growth of Minnesota. In order that such a program may be prepared, it is necessary "to place the administration of all state-owned parks, camp sites, playgrounds, monuments and monument sites, and state-owned points of historical interest or value under the immediate supervision of an expert commission or commissioner."

Mr. Chase exhibited a large map of Minnesota on which were shown the locations of the present state parks and monuments and also of certain proposed state parks. He said that the important factors to be considered in the selection of sites are natural beauty, historic interest, and accessibility. In conclusion he called special attention to certain sections of the state which in his opinion deserve to be represented in a comprehensive state park system. Members of the Minnesota Historical Society will be interested in learning that Mr. Chase earnestly recommended the establishment of a state park which will include the historic Grand Portage region. Numerous other available sites were suggested, in the vicinity of Pipestone, Lake Shetek, St. Cloud, Leech Lake, Twin Lakes, Albert Lea, Fairmont, Okabena, Blue Mound, Mille Lacs, Lake Benton, Camden Hills, Ortonville, Waconia, Lake Bemidji, and Fergus Falls.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. William E. Stoores of the Minnesota Highway Department, who followed Mr. Chase in the discussion, emphasized the importance of parks in relation to the vast number of tourists who visit the state during the summer months. The absence of parks and camp sites along the main trunk highways

<sup>1</sup> In Mr. Chase's valuable *Statement to the Nineteen Hundred Twenty-three Legislature* on state parks and memorials, the points which he made in the discussion summarized above are carefully elaborated. See *post*, p. 137.

was suggested as one of the principal defects in the present system. After explaining some of the practical problems connected with the equipment of state parks, with special reference to the tourist traffic, the speaker showed how the highway department would be able effectively to coöperate with the officials placed in charge of the park system.

To abandon the state parks or to fail adequately to meet the demands of the present situation would be a backward step which all would regret for "years and years to come," in the opinion of Mr. Charles H. Ramsdell of Minneapolis, who continued the discussion. He emphatically indorsed the position taken by the state auditor and stressed the need of saving for the state its important historic sites. He expressed the belief that if the people of the state could be thoroughly interested in the project for an improved state park system, they would not hesitate to give it their hearty support, and thus Minnesota would be able to develop a plan of administration comparable with the plans followed in Wisconsin and in the eastern states.

Mr. Carlos Avery, state game and fish commissioner, spoke next, telling of the administration of Sibley State Park, which is under his supervision, and advocating a "well-defined, intelligent policy for the control of state parks." Mr. Avery urged the segregation of certain areas before the inflow of settlement, especially in the virgin region of northern Minnesota. To undertake such work before private interests place these lands beyond the reach of the public is a proper function for a state park commission.

At the close of this informing and suggestive discussion, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Frank Hopkins of Fairfax and seconded by Mr. Hiram M. Hitchcock of Redwood Falls, was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the state of Minnesota ought to establish, and more completely develop and superintend, a system of state parks, monument sites, and tourist camping grounds;

RESOLVED, That this should be done by means of a commissioner or commission of one or more existing state officials or

otherwise, and that a careful survey should be made in order to reveal the facts essential to the formation of an effective policy in relation to state parks and memorials; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to the respective committees on state parks in the Senate and the House of the state legislature now in session.

The next discussion, on "The Organization of Local History Activities and Their Relation to the State Society," was led by Mr. William E. Culkin, president of the recently organized St. Louis County Historical Society. Mr. Culkin strongly advocated the organization of local historical societies in all the counties of Minnesota. He declared that historical interest is deeply rooted in civilized people, and that in fact he had "never met a man or woman worth while who does not love historical subjects." The organizers of local history activities are, therefore, certain to secure a considerable measure of support from the people if they proceed properly. The speaker asserted that similar methods of organization are not necessary or even desirable in all the counties. In his opinion, however, every local society ought to have intimate relations with the state society. He suggested that the latter organization might appoint a "corresponding secretary in each county," who would act as a "sort of historical registrar" for the community. The important thing is that the Minnesota Historical Society should coöperate with local history leaders in effecting a definite organization. Mr. Culkin then described in some detail the organization of the St. Louis County Historical Society, the main features of which were mentioned in the *BULLETIN* for February. In concluding his remarks, the speaker expressed the hope that at some future time "local historical societies from all parts of the North Star State" would meet in joint conference at the building of the state society.

Mr. Victor E. Lawson of Willmar then described briefly the work of the Kandiyohi County Old Settlers' Association, which was established in 1894. This society has a very large



membership of men and women who represent many different religious and political groups but are united by the common bond of historical interest. Kandiyohi County was the scene of many important events connected with the Sioux Outbreak, and "a vast quantity of Indian stories have been told and retold" at the meetings of the local society. Eventually a resolution was passed to put them into permanent form, a task which was entrusted to Mr. Lawson. Another interesting type of local history work was suggested by the speaker's concluding remark: "At every annual meeting we mark some historic site in Kandiyohi County."

The superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who presided at the conference, called attention to the attempt which is being made to publish in each issue of the quarterly magazine of the state society accounts of local history activities throughout the state. The *BULLETIN* serves thus as a clearing house for ideas in this field, but its usefulness can be increased greatly if those who are in touch with the work will convey to the society information concerning local history activities.

At the close of the discussion, the following resolution, also moved by Mr. Hopkins, was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the various old settlers' and pioneer organizations of Minnesota be urged to establish "historical departments," with officials in charge, with a view to the collection and preservation of local historical data;

RESOLVED, That local organizations be urged to communicate information to the Minnesota Historical Society in regard to historical documents and data of state interest which merit permanent preservation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the organization of county historical societies in Minnesota be recommended wherever such organization appears to be practicable.

At 12:30 P. M. approximately ninety members and friends of the society attended a luncheon at the St. Paul Athletic Club "to celebrate the enrollment of one thousand active mem-



bers." After the luncheon was served the superintendent spoke briefly about the membership campaign. The achievement of a membership which is more than double that of two years ago is unmistakable proof that the people of the state are "reaching the point where they have a greater interest in the past of their community than they ever had before." The population of the state is so large, however, that one is justified in expecting a very considerable increase above the present number of members. The historical society, which was incorporated in October, 1849, by the first territorial legislature, will celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1924, and that occasion "ought to be marked in some appropriate way." Mr. Buck proposed as a suitable slogan for the coming year, "two thousand members by the seventy-fifth anniversary," and announced that the first payment of dues by new members would cover the balance of the present and all of the next fiscal year. He declared that the Minnesota Historical Society, in cultivating the field of state history, is doing a work which is of direct interest to all citizens, to people in all walks of life, and that the society's membership by no means should be limited to those whose memories run back to the pioneer period.

The superintendent then introduced Mr. Elmer E. Adams of Fergus Falls, who acted as toastmaster for the program of informal talks which followed. Mr. Adams called attention to a recent newspaper editorial on "The Historical Society" in which the following vigorous indorsement appeared: "The society has just completed a successful campaign to increase its membership from 556, where it stood in October, 1921, to 1,000. This goal has been reached with so little difficulty that the society has decided not to stop there, but to conduct a new campaign to double the present membership. This project of the society deserves all the support which can be mustered to it in the state. The effort of the society to extend its influence should not be relaxed until it has a substantial membership in every county." The editorial went on to urge the enrollment of "at least 10,000" members in order that full justice may

be done "the state by the organization," and "the organization by the state."<sup>2</sup>

Mr. H. M. Hitchcock was then called upon to describe the campaign for membership which is being conducted in the Minnesota Valley. He spoke of the approaching centenary of the exploring expedition which visited the valley in 1823 under the leadership of Major Stephen H. Long. An anniversary tour of the Sioux Historic Trail and the holding of the next summer meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society in Redwood Falls would be especially appropriate, he said, in view of this centenary. The publications of the historical society, and particularly the forthcoming second volume of Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota* — with its promised account of the Sioux Outbreak — have great interest for the people who live in the historic Minnesota Valley region and are powerful inducements to membership in the society. Active coöperation has been secured from editors, who are helping to arouse historical interest by publishing timely historical articles in the columns of their newspapers.

The assistant superintendent, Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, called attention to the traveling exhibit which the society has prepared and which has since been sent to Redwood Falls. The object of this exhibit is to represent as clearly as possible the main activities of the society. With reference to the proposed campaign, the speaker said that the attainment of a large membership is a distinctly secondary aim. The primary object of the society is to arouse historical interest throughout the state and thus to secure a better understanding among the people of the functions of the historical society and, consequently, more general support and coöperation. Where interest and activity are thus stimulated, "historical-mindedness" develops, a genuine desideratum in all communities.

The toastmaster then introduced Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the University of Minnesota, who emphasized the challenge

<sup>2</sup> *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, January 7, 1923. The society has had this editorial reprinted and it is now available for distribution as a small leaflet.

in the date of the society's organization. If the young and vigorous men who came to Minnesota to lay the foundations of the commonwealth were ready to turn aside from their pressing tasks in 1849 in order to organize an historical society, said Mr. Ford, it is only fitting that their heirs and beneficiaries today should take up the challenge and give hearty support to the state in its efforts to preserve its records and to foster the development of the society as a great institution of public service.

Mr. Clifford L. Hilton, attorney-general of the state, expressed his appreciation of the vast collection of records which the society possesses and pointed out that its value to the people of Minnesota will tend constantly to increase. He asserted that the society's membership would rapidly increase if the present members would undertake to make others more familiar with the institution and its work.

Representative Theodore Christianson of Dawson declared that there is great intrinsic interest in the early history of the state. The pioneer period was one in which character and individuality, under the stress of the frontier environment, were strongly marked. The spirit of the frontiersman and his times, somewhat elusive in formal documents, may be caught in some of the stories which have come down from the early days. Mr. Christianson then told in happy vein a typical humorous pioneer story, and suggested that a real historical service might be rendered through the collection and publication of such materials for an understanding of Minnesota's past.

Other speakers upon whom the toastmaster called for brief responses and who contributed to the pleasure and success of the meeting were Mr. Samuel Lord, chairman of the Minnesota Tax Commission; Mr. Francis A. Duxbury, chairman of the Industrial Commission of Minnesota; and Mr. Benjamin F. Beardsley, who has been conspicuously active in the society's membership campaign.

The afternoon session, which convened in the Historical Building at 3:00 P. M. and which was attended by about 140

persons, was devoted to the reading of three historical papers. The first of these was Mr. Adams' interesting study in Minnesota political history which is published in the present number of the BULLETIN.

The second paper, on "James Dickson, A Filibuster in Minnesota in 1836," was read by Miss Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts of the Minnesota Historical Society. When a filibuster is mentioned in connection with American history one's thoughts instinctively turn southward, but original records which have been examined by Miss Nute prove that in 1836 a filibustering expedition began along the northern boundary of the United States and penetrated the northern part of the present area of Minnesota. Of the leader of this expedition, James Dickson, little is known, according to Miss Nute. He may have been Scotch, or English, or possibly the half-breed son of the famous Robert Dickson. That he had lived in Mexico for some time and had fought for the Texan cause is certain. In the winter of 1835-36 he appeared in Washington and, calling himself "General Dickson of the Indian Liberating Army" and "Montezuma II," endeavored to raise an army to help the Texans.

This venture proved unsuccessful, and Dickson next established relations with some Canadian half-breeds of Montreal whom he met at Buffalo in the summer of 1836. Here he chartered a small schooner and with sixty followers sailed for Sault Ste. Marie and Lake Superior. Dickson declared that his purpose was to recruit a hundred or two hundred half-breeds at the Red River colony and then to lead them to Santa Fé by way of the Missouri and its tributaries. After plundering this town he would fall back on California, wrest that province from its Mexican owners, and set up an Indian kingdom with himself as its monarch. To this state he expected all the prairie and mountain Indians to flock and also the tribes about to be removed by the United States government. No whites would be permitted in the proposed realm save a few officeholders. Such was Dickson's own explanation of his plans.

At Detroit the members of the party were arrested on a charge of piracy, but a retired army officer who was acquainted with Dickson interceded in their behalf and secured their release. Since they were unable to get their schooner into Lake Superior, the adventurers continued their trip in an old batteau, skirting the southern shore of the lake to Fond du Lac. Here they were given canoes and a guide by the officers of the American Fur Company's post, and thus equipped they made their way to Sandy Lake by the St. Louis portage route. Thence their journey took them up the Mississippi to Lake Winnebagoishish and on to Red Lake. By this time streams and lakes were frozen and the remainder of the trip was made on foot, with dog teams hauling the baggage.

The party's luck changed after the departure from Red Lake. First the guides deserted; then part of the company turned back; soon a snowstorm obliterated the wagon trail which they were following; an Indian led them away from the route which they should have taken; and finally the weather became exceedingly cold and the men froze faces, hands, and feet. They pressed on, however, and after three months of hardship reached Pembina, one of the Red River settlements. Miss Nute said that correspondence which is now preserved in archives in England indicates that the officials of the Hudson's Bay Company were greatly worried about the Dickson expedition, fearing that the filibusters would plunder the settlements. These officials did all in their power to thwart Dickson's plans, and he failed to secure his half-breed recruits. Whether he actually planned to oust the company from the region is not known, but that he entertained such a scheme is not unlikely, in Miss Nute's opinion.

Two of Dickson's officers and some of the privates were induced to enter the service of the fur company. Four of his men, including Martin McLeod and a guide, Pierre Bottineau, started for what is now St. Paul, intending to go on to St. Louis and there find employment. A blizzard overtook this party on the prairie some seventy miles from Lake Traverse

and only McLeod and the guide survived. Two members of the Dickson expedition, Martin McLeod and Alexander R. McLeod, Jr., became well-known figures in Minnesota history. Dickson disappeared from the scene as suddenly as he came. His last letter stated that he was on his way to Texas. In an earlier letter, however, he wrote that he expected to go to the Pacific coast. Perhaps he perished on his way to one of these remote regions; certainly he lapsed into the obscurity from which he had originally emerged. Thus came to an end this curious and hitherto unknown chapter in Minnesota and western history. In preparing her paper Miss Nute used the diary of Martin McLeod and other interesting documents in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. These include letters written by Dickson, McLeod's commission as an officer in the "Army of the Liberator," the articles of war by which the company was to be guided, a list of the men who signed these articles, and a large placard in Spanish announcing to the Mexican Indians that Montezuma II was on his way to release them from slavery.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Arthur T. Adams of Minneapolis then read a paper on "The Location of Radisson's 'Fort,' 1660," in which he contended that the spot where Radisson and Groseilliers in 1660 erected their "fort," and participated in a grand Indian celebration of the "feast of death," was in Kanabec County, Minnesota, on Spring Brook Hill, two miles south of Mora. That the two French explorers did penetrate into the interior of Minnesota in 1660 and did erect a "fort" and take part in an Indian council is not questioned by historians of this period, according to Mr. Adams. He therefore based his argument

<sup>3</sup> Some of the documents used by Miss Nute in the preparation of her paper were on exhibit in the manuscript room during the meeting. The paper was read at a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society at Duluth on March 5 and also at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association on March 29. An illustrated feature story based upon the article appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for April 1 and 8 under the title "When Montezuma II Plotted a World Empire in Minnesota." The original article will be published in full in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*.

on the language which Radisson himself used to describe the "fort" in his own account of the famous "western voyage" of 1659-60. An analysis of this description shows that six qualities, five of which are geographical, are ascribed to the region of the "fort." In brief, it was an Indian rendezvous located on a hill near a stream which flowed out of a lake and into a meadow, the hill in question being situated between the lake and the meadow.

In his investigation Mr. Adams took as his starting point Dr. Warren Upham's identification of the site as in the general vicinity of Knife Lake. He then blocked out an area comprising six contiguous counties in which he established the sites of all known Indian villages, camp grounds, and meeting places. Thereupon he addressed himself to the problem of eliminating from consideration all sites which did not meet the five-fold geographical qualifications of Radisson's description. Only one place stood the test which Mr. Adams applied and this was Spring Brook Hill near Mora. Charts and maps were presented by the speaker to illustrate the specific steps in the process of ratiocinative reasoning which led to this conclusion.

On this Minnesota hill, declared Mr. Adams, probably occurred that Indian council of 1660, the record of which is preserved in the quaint words of Radisson. No less than five hundred Indians of "eighten severall nations" foregathered, according to the seventeenth century account, and in the space of "two dayes" completed the building of a large "fort," which "might be seen afar off." The word "fort," Mr. Adams pointed out, probably was used by Radisson, not to signify a military enclosure, but rather a "gathering together of boughs or brush, and perhaps a crude form of stockade," as a protection against the elements.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> An article based on Mr. Adams' paper is published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for January 14. Some of the maps prepared by the author in connection with his investigation and a picture of the supposed site appear with the article.



At the end of this program pictures of the Grand Portage region were exhibited on the screen by Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr., curator of the society's museum, after which he explained the special Grand Portage exhibit in the Indian room of the museum.<sup>5</sup> The members and friends of the society were then conducted about the museum by guides.

The evening session, which included the formal business session of the society, was held at 8:00 P. M. in the west hall, the auditorium being too small to accommodate the audience of approximately 250. The minutes of the last annual meeting, on January 9, 1922, were read and approved, and the annual report of the treasurer was referred to the council. The superintendent then read his annual report, which consisted of a comprehensive survey of the society's activities during 1922 and a statement of the present needs of the society. The *Twenty-second Biennial Report*, which recently has been distributed to members, embodies the material contained in the annual reports for both 1921 and 1922.

The annual address was delivered by Dr. William W. Folwell, vice president of the society and president emeritus of the University of Minnesota, who took as his subject "The Struggle for the Admission of Minnesota to the Union." The deft characterizations, the scholarly analysis of a complicated situation, and the undercurrent of humor which marked the speaker's delineations of motives, made the address profoundly interesting to the large audience, and this interest was heightened by the vigor and charm of the speaker's delivery. The address was based upon the first chapter of the forthcoming second volume of Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota*.

The speaker began by pointing out that the constitution of Minnesota, framed in 1857 by a process "irregular not to say scandalous," was ratified on October 13, 1857, by the overwhelming plurality of 30,055 to 571. The official canvass of the vote, which was not completed until December 17, confirmed the election of the Democratic candidate, Henry H.

<sup>5</sup> For a brief account of the Grand Portage exhibit see *ante*, p. 58.



Sibley, as the first governor of the state by the slender margin of 240 votes in a total of 35,340. Allegations of fraud were bandied by the party newspapers after the canvass, according to Dr. Folwell.

On December 2, 1857, the first state legislature, overwhelmingly Democratic in composition, assembled in accordance with a provision of the newly adopted state constitution. It was expected that an act admitting the state would be quickly passed in order to increase the Democratic majority in Congress. It was further anticipated that the act of admission would legitimate all the acts passed by the "ambiguous" state legislature before the legal expiration of the territorial government. The legislature proceeded, therefore, to "recognize" the territorial executive, Samuel Medary, as governor, and on December 19 elected Henry M. Rice and General James Shields as the first senators from Minnesota. Dr. Folwell devoted considerable attention to the active public career of General Shields.

The main body of the address dealt with the causes for the long delay of Minnesota's admission. The Minnesota constitution reached President Buchanan on January 6, 1858, and was submitted to the Senate on January 11 and at once referred to the committee on territories, the chairman of which was Stephen A. Douglas. The constitution, with a bill to admit Minnesota, was reported out on January 26. Not until May 11 was Minnesota admitted, however, and not until May 24, 1858, did the state officials who had been elected in the preceding October actually take the oath of office. Dr. Folwell quoted a southern senator who said, "If you admit Minnesota and exclude Kansas, the spirit of our revolutionary fathers is utterly extinct if the government can last for one short twelvemonth." In other words, southern senators and representatives desired that Kansas should be admitted with the Lecompton constitution before the case of any other applicant for statehood should be considered, "no matter if it did have the parliamentary right of way."

"The needless palaver over the admission of Minnesota covers nearly three hundred columns of the *Congressional Globe*, averaging nearly a thousand words each," said Dr. Folwell. The question as to how many representatives Minnesota should have occupied the Senate for nearly four days. The granting of the vote to aliens in Minnesota was the subject of a warm discussion in the House. Some opposition, like that of John Sherman, was based upon the charge that the constitution of Minnesota had been framed, not by a regular convention but by "two mobs," and that the election in October was "illegal and attended with fraud."

After the enactment of the English compromise on May 4, by which the final decision on the Kansas question was remitted to the people of that territory, the admission of Minnesota could not be delayed much longer, and on May 11 the state was admitted. The attitude of the waiting Minnesotans was expressed in the trenchant words which Dr. Folwell quoted from the inaugural message of Governor Sibley. Minnesota had been kept out of the Union for many months, said the state's first executive, "because it subserved the purposes of congressional politicians to allow her to remain suspended for an indefinite period, like the fabled coffin of the false prophet, between the heavens and the earth."

As "afterpieces to the comedy," Dr. Folwell described the case of William W. Kingsbury, who had been elected delegate from Minnesota Territory in October, 1857, and who declined to vacate his seat until he was summarily dismissed; and the case of Alpheus G. Fuller, who claimed to represent the excluded portion of Minnesota Territory and asked for admission as a delegate from the Territory of Dakota, the latter being identical with this excluded portion. Needless to say, he failed to get the seat.

Dr. Folwell closed his address by reviewing briefly the history of the first state legislature and its various acts, including the notorious "five million loan" amendment. After reassembling on June 2, 1858, this legislature devoted much of its

final labor to the engaging problem of using up an unexpended ten thousand dollars for legislative expenses. Appropriations for six thousand dollars for stationery and thirty-five hundred dollars for postage stamps solved this problem, a "culminating fiscal act which has had too many analogies in later and present days." The address as a whole exposed a situation in the late fifties which would startle those who conceive it to be the duty of the historian to glorify the past. But, "the story of the entrance of Minnesota into the Union, with its irregularities, procrastination, tricks, and blunders," said Dr. Folwell, "teaches the facility with which democracies may overcome such obstacles and reach their reasonable ends."

Following this address, the annual meeting came to a close with an informal reception for members of the society and their friends in the rooms of the museum. This delightful function was in charge of a committee of Minneapolis and St. Paul women consisting of Mrs. Charles E. Furness, Mrs. Charles W. Ames, Mrs. Charles P. Noyes, Mrs. Charles S. Pillsbury, Mrs. William G. Northup, Mrs. Frederick G. Ingersoll, Mrs. James H. Skinner, and Mrs. Roderic E. Daniel.

## THE INFORMATION BUREAU

### LAFAYETTE HOUGHTON BUNNELL

Dr. Kelley is preparing a paper on Lafayette Houghton Bunnell (1824-1903) to present to the Johns Hopkins Historical Society and is searching for data concerning Dr. Bunnell. Will you be so very kind as to give him any information which you may have?

I spent yesterday searching in the Congressional Library but while I found much biographical material relating to Minnesota Dr. Bunnell was literally conspicuous by his absence. Vol. 14 of your Collections gave a brief note of Dr. Bunnell and a most interesting reference to your Scrap-books, Vol. 28; would it be possible for the Society to lend its Scrap-book to Dr. Kelly, or could you furnish him with data from the book? Dr. Kelly particularly wants to obtain all possible information regarding Dr. Bunnell's connection with medicine; where did he receive his degree? Did he practice? M. D. is signed after his name in his books. Was he not surgeon in a Wisconsin regiment?

Please make your information as full as possible. Dr. Kelly's paper will be published later and will be a just recognition of a brave and interesting man.

Can you tell me who was the first physician in Winona? One writer gives Dr. Allen, another Dr. Cole.

HARRIET BLOGG, Baltimore, Maryland<sup>1</sup>

Lafayette Houghton Bunnell was born in Rochester, New York, in 1824. He was the son of Dr. Bradley Bunnell, who was born in New London, Connecticut, in 1771, and of Charlotte Houghton, who was born in Windsor, Vermont, in 1785. In 1833 Dr. Bunnell, who had visited Detroit in 1828, decided to locate in that city. He had been there but a short time, however, when he removed with his family to Saginaw. Again dissatisfied with the field for his profession, he returned to Detroit within a few months, leaving his family at Saginaw. In this frontier settlement Lafayette spent several years of his

<sup>1</sup> Miss Blogg is in charge of the library of Dr. Howard A. Kelly of Baltimore. Dr. Kelly's article has been published in the *Annals of Medical History* (vol. 3, no. 2) under the title "Lafayette Houghton Bunnell, M.D., Discoverer of the Yosemite." It also has been issued as a separate (16 p.). See *ante*, 4: 187.

boyhood. His playmates were young Chippewa Indians, from whom he quickly gained a knowledge of their language. Here he came in contact with fur-traders, whose stories caused young Bunnell to long for the life of the extreme frontier. A visit from his mother's cousin, Dr. Douglas Houghton, a member of the Schoolcraft expedition of 1832, served to intensify this longing. Later, in Detroit, the boy lived in the same hotel with Henry R. Schoolcraft, and here also he heard exciting tales of the upper Mississippi country from the Detroit Snellings.

Lafayette's parents, however, had other plans for the future of their son. When he was twelve years old he was sent to a classical school in Detroit, the Latin school of Mr. O'Brien. He soon left this to attend the "Bacon Select or High School." Here he made good progress, but his studies ended when his father met with financial reverses. Lafayette was forced to earn his own bread, and he found employment in the drug store of B. T. Le Britton. His employer sent him into Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia to take orders and make collections. In 1840, much against his wishes, he was taken into his father's office to study medicine. For two years he attended private clinics and demonstrations and did some reading.

Then came the opportunity to enter the life of which he had been dreaming. His brother Willard, who had entered the fur trade in Wisconsin several years earlier, was in poor health and wished to move to the dry climate of the upper Mississippi. He sent for Lafayette to accompany him. The eighteen-year-old boy crossed the lakes and joined his brother at the mouth of the Menominee River; from here the brothers journeyed to Green Bay and thence followed the Fox and Wisconsin rivers to the Mississippi. They settled at Trempealeau, east of the river. Here Willard Bunnell resided until 1849, when he crossed the river and founded the town of Homer, slightly south of Winona.

In 1844 Lafayette helped to build the first house in Winona. It was probably in the same year that, becoming dissatisfied with frontier life, he returned to Detroit and resumed his medical studies in the office of Dr. Scoville, only to be interrupted by the outbreak of the Mexican War. Bunnell was appointed hospital steward of the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry. During the illness of the doctors, while the regiment was quartered in Cordova, Mexico, he had entire charge of the hospital and at the close of the war he had the medical charge of one battalion.

After the discovery of gold in California Bunnell went overland through Mexico to Mariposa. Soon after his arrival trouble arose with the Indians, and when the Mariposa Battalion was formed for defense against them, he became a member. In March, 1851, members of the battalion were attempting to find the village of the Yosemite Indians, which was known to be in a deep valley. Thus was discovered the Yosemite Valley, named upon Bunnell's suggestion for the Indian tribe which inhabited it. The name means "a full-grown grizzly bear." The Indians told the members of the party that they were the first white men who had ever entered the valley. Dr. Bunnell's book, the *Discovery of the Yosemite* (New York, 1880), is a history of this expedition.

Bunnell enlisted in the Union Army at the very outbreak of the Civil War. His military record, quoted from James M. Aubery's history of *The Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry*, follows:

Enlisted April 18, 1861, at La Crosse, Wis.; appointed hospital steward July 22, 1861, and discharged May 9, 1862, as hospital steward by order of General McDowell. Above service in Company B, Second Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers.

Enlisted in Company B, Second Wisconsin Cavalry Volunteers, November 14, 1863, and discharged March 1, 1865, to accept commission as assistant-surgeon Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers.

Commissioned assistant-surgeon Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers February 21, 1865, to rank from same date;

mustered as such March 20, 1865; commissioned surgeon July 11, 1865, to rank from same date; mustered to date July 11, 1865, and mustered out with regiment, July 12, 1865.

Before he received his commission the degree of doctor of medicine had been conferred upon Bunnell by the La Crosse Medical College of La Crosse, Wisconsin, on October 20, 1864. His commission and his diploma are the most interesting items in the Bunnell Papers, which were presented to the Minnesota Historical Society in 1916 by Mr. James M. George of Winona.

At the close of the war Dr. Bunnell located at Homer and took possession of the land and buildings left by his brother, who died in August, 1861. The doctor resided in Homer during the remainder of his life. Here he practiced his profession to a limited extent, occasionally going as far as Winona to make medical calls.

In the district about his home Dr. Bunnell was well known as a writer of local history. He wrote the chapters on early settlement for a *History of Winona County* (Chicago, 1883). He also is the author of a volume entitled *Winona and Its Environs on the Mississippi in Ancient and Modern Days* (Winona, 1897). Both of these works contain some autobiographical material. An article on "Pioneer Doctors of Winona," in the *Winona Republican Herald* for June 30, 1917, includes a section on Dr. Bunnell. An obituary sketch, clipped from the *Winona Independent* of July 24, 1903, is in volume 28 of the society's scrapbooks.

The question of Winona's first doctor is discussed in a *History of Winona County* by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge and William J. Whipple (Chicago, 1913). According to these authors Dr. Allen, of whom very little is known, arrived in 1853 and is supposed to have been the first man to practice medicine in the county. Dr. James M. Cole settled in Winona in 1854 and was the community's first practicing physician.

B. L. H.



Thank you for the memoranda *re* Bunnell. They are just what I wanted and a great help. I will of course send you the matter when printed. . . . I regret to say that I got Bunnell's name too late to go into my cyclopedia.

HOWARD A. KELLY

Dr. Kelly would be greatly obliged to you if you will have a photograph taken of Dr. Bunnell's diploma from the La Crosse Medical College. . . . Your society has furnished Dr. Kelly with the exact information wanted and was the only source which could give the place of his graduation

Your splendid paper on Dr. Bunnell, prepared by Miss Heilbron, does not give the date of his death; could you give this, and tell of what he died? One communication said he died in 1903 and stated that he left no children; another that he died in a hospital at Homer and left daughters and gives the date as the autumn of 1905. Please straighten this out.

Can you tell me something of the La Crosse Medical College?

HARRIET BLOGG

According to the *Winona Independent* for July 24, 1903, Dr. Bunnell "was taken to the Winona Hospital for treatment, and remained there for some weeks, and on improving was taken home, but suffered a relapse with fatal results." The nature of his illness is not mentioned. Since this statement appears in connection with the funeral notice, he probably died about July 20, 1903.<sup>2</sup> All accounts used in the preparation of the sketch of Dr. Bunnell agree that he had no children. He seems to have died at his home in Homer.

A brief history of the La Crosse Medical College appears in a *History of La Crosse County, Wisconsin* (Chicago, 1881). The college "was instituted in the fall of 1864, under a charter granted April 18, to Dugald D. Cameron, P. S. McArthur, J. B. G. Baxter, William L. Kennett, Ewen H. McMillan, William T. Wenzell and Augustus Brummel, as the charter members." The original board of trustees was made up of these charter members and the first officers were chosen from

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Kelly, in his article on Bunnell (see *ante*, n. 1), gives July 21, 1903, as the date of the latter's death. The author bases his statement on data furnished by Mr. Harry L. Buck, postmaster of Winona.

their numbers. At this time the college was conducted by an imposing corps of professors. "The college continued in active operation for two or three years, since which time no regular meetings have been held, but the charter has been kept good by the election of officers yearly, and it is the intention of the officers to again put it in operation at no distant day." So far as is known, however, this intention was never carried out.

B. L. H.

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*The Trans-Mississippi West (1803-1853): A History of Its Acquisition and Settlement.* By CARDINAL GOODWIN, PH. D., professor of American history in Mills College. (New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1922. 528 p. Maps.)

During the past generation, within the period so much influenced by Frederick Jackson Turner, as a matter of fact, there has been much specialized work in the field of western history. While the soil is still far from being thoroughly tilled there has been accumulated a goodly crop of studies which make the work of synthesis more possible than even a few years ago. With the accumulation it would appear that, tentatively at least, something in the way of a summary, a compendious view, could be attempted. Some years ago Frederic L. Paxson, in his *Last American Frontier*, ventured into the field. Now Cardinal Goodwin, in the *Trans-Mississippi West*, tries his hand at an earlier period, the half century after the purchase of Louisiana.

In a certain sense Mr. Goodwin had a virgin field. He had an opportunity to bring together within the covers of a single volume a synthesis of the labors of others illuminated by his own interpretation. To a degree, so far as the first factor is concerned, he has performed the task; the illumination, however, is conspicuous by its almost entire absence. This is not an inspiring book, despite the fact that it deals with one of the most romantic phases of American history; the lack of inspiration is evident both in form and in substance. Not only is it dry reading, but it brings no new point of view. It does not stimulate the reader to delve further for treasures the existence of which at least could have been indicated even though the limits of the book made impossible the inclusion of detailed accounts of the materials available.

Minnesota belongs in part to the Trans-Mississippi West, and, while one would expect no very large space to be given to this relatively small part of the total region under consideration, one is astonished at the slight attention paid to it. One of the best chapters of the book is that dealing with "The American Fur

Trade and Commerce in the West," and here, certainly, the reader legitimately may expect to find something of the trade of the Northwest. But almost no mention is made of it. Names like those of Henry H. Sibley and Ramsay Crooks do not appear. Indeed, if one were to take this book as an authentic account of the Trans-Mississippi West in the half century it covers, one would conclude that little or no activity occurred outside the Rocky Mountain trade.

One chapter is entitled "Early American Settlement of Iowa and Minnesota." Of the twenty-eight pages allowed this topic, somewhat under six are allotted to Minnesota. Perhaps this proportion is correct, for prior to 1853 settlement north of Iowa had not made much progress. Nevertheless, out of 507 pages of text, one might logically expect to find more than some twenty, all told, dealing more or less directly with the upper western Mississippi Valley.

If disappointment comes to one who seeks to find an adequate, though condensed, account of the North Star State, little more satisfaction is found in several other phases. In the discussion of the fur trade as a whole, for example, there is not very much more than an epitome of Chittenden's volumes. The Pacific Northwest, which is the theme of four complete chapters and a portion of the subject of two others, has allotted to it enough space for rather thorough treatment; nevertheless, what with the method of arrangement which lends itself to some duplication of account, this region is not much more convincingly treated than is the old Minnesota territory.

Constantly the reader wonders why certain names do not appear: why, for instance, that of Robert J. Walker never arises in connection with the acquisition of Texas; why Peter Skene Ogden is left out.

When the organization of Missouri is the topic, as it is in a part of chapter 3, the reaction of the people of that prospective state to congressional legislation would seem to warrant at least as full an account as is given to what took place in Washington. No story of the Trans-Mississippi West can be told without considerable discussion of the racial elements which made up its population. Only here and there, however, is this matter adverted to.

Perhaps one of the most striking characteristics of the volume is the more or less skillful manner in which the author manages to dodge controversial issues. That there was controversy one does gather at times, but, on the whole, no reader unfamiliar with the period and the field would have the faintest conception of the battles which raged about so many factors. The question of public lands and their disposal scarcely rises to the surface; the tale of the acquisition of Texas and its aftermath reads as placidly as a novel by Anthony Trollope. There is no color in the story of one of the most colorful periods and fields of American history. Mr. Goodwin may have squatted on the field but his preëmption rights are by no means secure.

One of the most admirable features of the work is the bibliographical note at the end of each chapter. While there are some surprising gaps, these notes form a pretty good summary of the major literature of the subject; somewhat less attention than might be hoped is paid to the publications of the various historical societies. The index is fairly full and adequate.

LESTER BURRELL SHIPFEE

*A History of Agriculture in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Domesday Book, General Studies, vol. 1).* By JOSEPH SCHAFER. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1922. xiii, 212 p. Illustrations, maps.)

This volume does not purport in the first instance to be a complete history of agriculture in Wisconsin; it is, rather, a "general introduction to the *Town Studies* of the *Wisconsin Domesday Book*." Most readers of the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN will be familiar with Mr. Schafer's plans for the *Domesday Book* and with his ideas as to the advantages of a "microscopical" or sample method of studying history. In as much as the first volume of Mr. Schafer's *Town Studies* is now in press, we shall soon have a chance to adjudge the merits of the whole program. When the time came to cast the data for the twenty-five towns (townships is the popular designation) included in this volume "it was seen," says Mr. Schafer, "that the matter on each town could be treated in much smaller compass . . . if there was a comprehensive sketch of the history of agriculture in the state to

which on all general topics one could simply refer, instead of repeating such matter in the texts pertaining to the separate towns." This is the genesis of the present volume. The author hopes, however, that it will also serve as a tentative sketch of the history of agriculture until such time as the intensive local studies shall furnish the basis for a better one.

As an introduction to the *Domesday* series, the present volume serves admirably. First of all, it gives a spirited account of the early rush into the southwestern lead diggings; of the new and larger migration which set in very shortly over the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes, mostly from New York, New England, and Ohio; of how this movement was supplemented presently by immigrants from Germany, Norway, Great Britain, Switzerland, and Canada; of how these various groups of settlers selected their land, developed their holdings, and in a remarkably short time made farms out of all the readily available land of what Mr. Schafer calls Wisconsin's "Old South"; of how wheat, the lure which first drew the New Yorkers and Vermonters to Wisconsin, by its succession of very fat and very lean years gambled with their destinies, till, especially after 1870, they either became discouraged and moved on, or turned to corn, hogs, and cattle; of the waxing and waning of wool production; of the early influences which gave Wisconsin its present eminence in dairy farming; of, finally, how the very movement which had peopled Wisconsin in the forties and fifties, in the seventies and eighties swept the population of Wisconsin on into Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas, until in 1890 nearly a quarter of a million of its natives were found by census-takers to be living outside its borders, and Wisconsin's "New North" was left stranded in the lee of the current. One chapter gives a good account of the development of improved livestock in Wisconsin. Another traces the relationship of lumbering and farming in the settlement period.

A second way in which the present volume serves as a good introduction to the *Domesday* studies is that by its use of data from the town studies themselves, it gives us a chance to see how valuable these studies are going to be. In particular, the careful analysis of the census data of 1850 and of the early land office records reconstructs a clear and accurate picture of

the first stages of settlement. The foretaste which is thus given of the town studies arouses a keen appetite for more.

As a history of agriculture in Wisconsin, of course, this first volume has many shortcomings. It is, after all, mostly a history of Wisconsin agriculture before 1870; and surely Wisconsin agricultural history since 1880 is more significant than all Wisconsin agricultural history before 1880. It treats inadequately many phases of Wisconsin agricultural history — for example, the development of railroads, markets, and tenure systems.

As agricultural history, it is characteristic of the species in many ways. Mr. Schafer was reared on a farm, as all good agricultural historians should be — but only on a farm in southwestern Wisconsin, which, being interpreted, means that he does not know farming as it was practiced in his boyhood in other parts of the state. Second, it is some time since Mr. Schafer lived on a farm, which means that his ideas of what has happened since his youth have been obtained from miscellaneous sources. One of these is the farm papers, which are always tainted with propaganda. When Mr. Schafer applies his microscopical methods to the best official records of the years 1890 to 1920, he will find that what was actually happening with the farmers in various parts of the state is likely to be different in many details from what was being advocated and discussed at the time by farm journals, agricultural college professors, and the like. The taint of propaganda is most evident, as one would expect, in the discussion of dairying and farming in the cut-over districts. Dean Henry's *Northern Wisconsin*, he will find, is better immigration literature than source material. Third, although Mr. Schafer knows technical agriculture surprisingly well, he does not know it well enough. Fourth, the economic forces are very inadequately presented. How, for example, can one discuss properly the shifts in systems of farming without making use of the economic principles determining choice of enterprises, the law of comparative advantage and its corollaries? Fifth, the influence of climate upon the development of Wisconsin agriculture is very largely ignored — and it is a very important influence. Sixth, the influences of soil and topography are only partly presented. The history of Wisconsin agriculture



ought to explain, it seems to the reviewer, how Adams County or Kewaunee County, for example, has come to be what it is. Seventh, more care could well be given to the statistical coefficients used in making comparisons between counties and census periods.

It is, of course, almost physically impossible that one person shall qualify in all the foregoing respects. Mr. Schafer is an unusually good combination, but he needs more help from others than historians before he can make first-class history of the town studies. Even at that, Mr. Schafer's reporting of developments since 1880 is probably better agriculture than it is history.

It is apparent from the very frontispiece, which is labeled "Wisconsin — Land Fertile and Fair," that Wisconsin is going to be somewhat glorified in the *Domesday Book*. The people of Wisconsin will like the series — no doubt Mr. Schafer wants them to.

JOHN D. BLACK

*South Dakota Historical Collections.* Volume II. Compiled by the State Department of History. (Pierre, Hippie Printing Company, 1922. 600 p. Illustrations.)

This volume, like others of the series to which it belongs, is made up of miscellaneous papers. For example, it includes a reprint of reports of Lieutenant G. K. Warren upon his explorations in Dakota and Nebraska from 1855 to 1858, a general summary of the progress of South Dakota during 1921 and 1922, a list of newspapers on file in the offices of the department of history, and, last but not least, reprints *in toto* of selected numbers of five frontier newspapers of Dakota Territory. In addition to the reports of Lieutenant Warren, the following articles will have special interest for students of the history of Minnesota and the Northwest: "Recollections of Ft. La Ramboise in 1862 and the Rescue of Lake Chetak Captives," by Charles P. Barbier; "Basil Clement (Claymore)," an account of trading and exploring expeditions on the upper Missouri and Platte rivers, by Charles Edmund DeLand; "The Last Buffalo Hunt," by the Reverend Thomas L. Riggs; and an account of the opening of the Rosebud Reservation in 1904.

The reprinting in full of selected issues of rare newspapers in a volume of this kind is something of a novelty and is, therefore, worthy of note. It is to be doubted whether this method could be followed on a large scale, however, on account of the expense, for the reprint of one number of the *Democrat* alone occupies thirty pages of the volume. The section entitled "Newspapers of South Dakota," which contains the reprints, opens with a brief account of the establishment of the *Democrat*, the first newspaper printed within the geographical limits of Dakota Territory, at Sioux Falls in 1859, and then presents a list of early Dakota newspapers with notes concerning them. Unfortunately the writer, presumably Mr. Doane Robinson, has incorporated in this otherwise valuable account a sketch of the Albright Press, which he still maintains is the original Goodhue press on which the *Minnesota Pioneer*, the first newspaper in Minnesota, was printed. When the authenticity of the old hand press now preserved in the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society as the original Goodhue press was first challenged in the fall of 1919, the present reviewer made an investigation of the matter and adduced considerable evidence to prove that the Goodhue press never left Minnesota, but continued in honorable service on various newspapers practically up to the time of its purchase by the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in 1905. The results of this investigation, which were made public in the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN for February, 1920, are ignored by Mr. Robinson. Instead, he reprints a brief article from the *Palimpsest* by John C. Parish containing several errors, to which attention has already been called in the BULLETIN. (See *ante*, 3: 532.) Mr. Robinson's article does not strengthen the claims for the Albright press. It is simply a reassertion of the claim without the presentation of any evidence.

The volume under review is well bound, printed on good paper, and supplied with an index and a table of contents. Typographical errors, however, such as "membeship" for "membership" (p. 7) and "Waren" for "Warren" (p. 60), both in captions where they could easily have been caught by the proof reader, mar the otherwise attractive appearance of the book.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, JR.

*Statement to the Nineteen Hundred Twenty-three Legislature.*

By RAY P. CHASE, state auditor. (N. p., n. d. 106 p. Illustrations, maps.)

Under this colorless heading Mr. Chase has presented a comprehensive survey of the state park situation in Minnesota. It is an unbiased statement of facts and conditions, the keynote of which is sounded in the first paragraph. "A state park system is either a good thing or it is a bad thing. It either benefits the people of the state sufficiently to warrant the expenditure of public monies, or it is of so little benefit that public funds should not be expended to create or preserve such a system." If state parks are a good thing and should be retained, then, in Mr. Chase's opinion, control over them should be vested in some commissioner or commission instead of being divided among a number of state officials in various departments.

A statement of "What Other States Have Done," written by Frank Nutter, a landscape architect and engineer of Minneapolis, comprises the first part of the report and serves to throw light upon the general problem. In this the development of park administration in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Wisconsin is explained. Mr. Chase then enumerates Minnesota's state parks, describing in each case the location, improvements, and general conditions, and stating the amount of the annual appropriations for maintenance. In offering suggestions for numerous additional parks Mr. Chase adopts the principle that a state park system should benefit as large a proportion of the people of the state as possible.

Since the adequate preservation and marking of historic places are matters closely allied to the problem of state parks, the report devotes considerable attention to historic sites in Minnesota and lists a number of monuments and other markers. Specific suggestions are offered as to the further development of this work.

Great credit is due to the compiler of this report for assembling this material and for presenting it in usable form. The pamphlet is profusely illustrated and is supplied throughout with detailed maps prepared by the commissioner of highways. It is to be regretted that no index has been provided and that the table of contents is incomplete. Nevertheless the report will prove a use-

ful handbook of information to those who desire to study the state park situation in Minnesota.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, JR.

*The Story of the North Star State.* By DANIEL E. WILLARD, A. M., formerly professor of geology, State Agricultural College of North Dakota. (St. Paul, Webb Publishing Company, 1922. 395 p. Illustrations, maps, charts.)

The title of this book might be supposed to imply that it contains a history of the settlement and development of Minnesota as a territory and a state. Instead it describes the ancient topographic and geologic features of this area, treating quite fully of the Ice Age and its drift formations, the prairies and forests, the peat bogs, the diverse soils and their values for farming, and the flora and fauna. The last seven chapters, comprising more than a hundred pages, are entitled "Geology from a Car Window" and note the bedrocks, glacial drift, terraces and plains of modified drift, morainic hills and lakes, and the eroded gorges, valleys, and flood plains of the present rivers, as seen by the traveler along the railways of the state. Other chapters describe and map glacial Lake Agassiz, which occupied the Red River Valley in the closing stage of the glacial period, its outflow by the River Warren in the courses of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, the similarly ice-dammed Lake Duluth, the lakes and rivers of Freeborn County, the remarkable chains of lakes in Martin County, the Dalles of the St. Croix, the Falls of St. Anthony, and the Vermilion, Mesabi, and Cuyuna iron ore ranges.

Twenty maps and 135 other text figures, chiefly from photographs, well illustrate this volume, which is written in simple language for "the great reading public of Minnesota," and for use in schools as a "home geography." Its general plan follows the author's earlier book for North Dakota, *The Story of the Prairies* (Chicago, 1902), which has been widely used in its schools. The people of the states treated in these two volumes should be no less interested in the story of the geography and geology, the creation and evolution, of these states than in accounts of their more recent human history.

WARREN UPHAM

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The legislature, which has just adjourned as this issue of the BULLETIN goes to press, granted four thousand dollars of the ten thousand dollar increase in its annual appropriation asked by the society, making the total forty-four thousand dollars. In view of the commendable desire on the part of the legislature for economy in state expenditures, this increase is all that could reasonably be expected. It is to be regretted, however, that, of the sum appropriated, twenty thousand dollars can be used only "for equipment, travel and office expenses," as this restriction makes impossible greatly needed increases in the staff.

The additions to the active membership during the first three months of 1923 numbered sixty-eight. In the following list of the names of these new members it will be noted that fifteen Minnesota counties and four states other than Minnesota are represented:

BLUE EARTH: Benjamin D. Smith of Mankato.

BROWN: August Hummel of New Ulm and H. Frank Scobie of Sleepy Eye.

FREEBORN: Andrew W. Johnson of Albert Lea.

GOODHUE: Frances Densmore of Red Wing.

HENNEPIN: O. Ralph Anderson, John E. Blegen, Mrs. Eugene Fogg, William T. Fraser, Mrs. Myra Griswold, Dunham Jackson, Manly S. Jackson, Emily D. McMillan, James A. Peterson, Mrs. Harry Share, John F. Sinclair, Mrs. Bertha K. Smith, and Elizabeth Underwood, all of Minneapolis.

MCLEOD: Sam G. Anderson and Percy E. Avery of Hutchinson.

MOWER: Orson R. Steffens of Racine.

OLMSTEAD: Clair A. Chapman of Rochester.

RAMSEY: George R. Dane, Mrs. Mabel I. DeVinny, Otto Hall, David G. Hedberg, Mrs. Thomas B. Jennings, Wesley E. King, Mrs. L. D. Libbey, August J. Lindvall, Axel E. Lundholm, Frank B. Millard, Amy C. Moon, William F. Peet, Mrs. Emma H. Perkins, Clarence W. Rife, Litton E. Shields, Edward Swenson, and John H. Wolterstorff, all of St. Paul.

REDWOOD: Dr. William A. Brand, Dr. Herman B. Cole, Arthur P. Falk, Dr. James W. Inglis, Marion Johnson, Charles Luscher, Mrs. A. D. McRae, Matthew J. Odlaug, and John B. Philbrick, all of Redwood Falls.

RENVILLE: Frank Hopkins and the Reverend W. E. Mahle of Fairfax.

ST. LOUIS: Arthur P. Folsom of Buhl; Clarence H. Barnes, John H. Hearing, Mrs. William A. McGonagle, Andrew H. Markkanen, and Oscar L. Mather of Duluth; Peter Schaefer of Ely; and Dr. Bertram S. Adams and C. E. Everett of Hibbing.

WASECA: Olney K. Long of Janesville and Fred W. Senn of Waseca.

YELLOW MEDICINE: John J. Mooney of Granite Falls.

NON-RESIDENT: Victor Albjerg of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Frank M. Anderson of Hanover, New Hampshire; Thompson C. Elliott of Walla Walla, Washington; Mrs. James Hillman of Fort Dodge, Iowa; John P. Nash of Berkeley, California; and Augustus S. Prescott of Sheldon, Iowa.

The St. Louis County Historical Society took out an institutional membership in this period.

The society has lost seven active members by death during the three months ending March 30, 1923: Thomas Bardon of Ashland, Wisconsin, February 2; the Reverend George C. Tanner of Minneapolis, February 13; George A. Du Toit of Chaska, February 20; Dr. Arthur M. Eastman of Minneapolis, February 24; Trevanion W. Hugo of Duluth, February 27; Mason W. Tyler of Minneapolis, March 15; and Ernest T. Critchett of Minneapolis, March 25; also one corresponding member, Henry C. Campbell, of Milwaukee, January 2. The deaths of two other corresponding members, L. Bradford Prince of Santa Fé, New Mexico, December 8, 1922, and Frederick B. Wright of Kensington, Maryland, December 12, 1922, have not previously been reported in the *BULLETIN*.

The public libraries of Ironton, Chatfield, and Little Falls; the Carlton High School; and the state teachers' colleges of Bemidji and Moorhead have become subscribers to the society's publications during the first quarter of 1923.

The traveling exhibit of the society was displayed in the Duluth Public Library after its use at the meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society on March 5.

The increase in the use of the society's library has not yet lost its impetus. During January, February, and March 13,216 books were served to 2,008 readers in the main reading room. This is 80 per cent more than the number for the first quarter of 1922, which, in turn, was 80 per cent more than that for the first quarter of 1921. March, which is usually the busiest month of the year, saw 5,162 books served as compared with 3,600 for March, 1922. The number of readers was 850, an average of 33 a day; and the average number of books served each day was 198. On the busiest day of the month, 380 books were served to 51 different readers, and at one time it was noted that 27 persons were working in the reading room at once.

The impossibility, with the present limited staff of cataloguers, of classifying and cataloguing all incoming material for the library has now been definitely recognized, and plans have been worked out for dividing the books into two groups. All those which are not likely to be immediately needed in the library are put in what is called the deferred group. These are arranged by themselves alphabetically in a section of the bookstack set apart for the purpose, and there they will have to remain until the cataloguing staff is increased. A single card for each book is filed in the official catalogue in order to prevent the accession of duplicates. The library of the Swedish Historical Society of America, which was turned over to the society on permanent deposit a couple of years ago, is in the same situation as this deferred group; that is, it is arranged alphabetically and the books are accessioned, but no classification or cataloguing has been possible.

The practical value of the archives work done by the society has been well illustrated during the recent session of the state legislature. Among the records turned over to the society by the secretary of state a few years ago were some territorial legislative papers which had been reposing, presumably since their removal from the Old Capitol, in a couple of gunny sacks under a bench in one of the sub-basement shipping rooms of the New



Capitol. Included among these documents — which have now been cleaned, pressed, arranged, and filed — are the papers of a territorial building commission. During the winter the attorney-general's office was asked by a legislative committee for an opinion as to the right of the state to sell the property on which the Old Capitol is located, it being a tradition that in case it were not used for state purposes this property would revert to the heirs of Charles Bazille, who gave the site to the territory in 1851. The attorney-general's office found that the deed as recorded contained a reference to the formal tender of the property and, consequently, wished to see that document. The aid of the society was enlisted and in a short time the desired document was located among the papers of the territorial building commission just referred to. It is reported that this document makes it certain that the state possesses unconditional title to the property in question. Its discovery, therefore, may be a matter of considerable legal and financial importance.

Another instance of the importance of the society's archival work was furnished shortly after the House of Representatives established a special committee on reorganization of state government. The attention of the committee was called to the fact that the society has in its archives collection all the papers, consisting of minutes, correspondence, reports from state departments, and scrapbooks, of the efficiency and economy commission appointed by Governor Eberhart and also of the legislative commission which followed it; and the chairman of the committee made an examination of this material. Copies of the printed reports of the Eberhart commission also were furnished for the use of the new committee.

Arrangements have been made for the calendaring for the society and a number of similar institutions in other states in the Northwest of the great collection of the American Fur Company papers in the library of the New York Historical Society, and this work is now under way. It is expected that photostatic copies of such of these documents as are of special importance for Minnesota history will be secured in the course of time.

Four illustrated lectures have been given in the museum by the curator during the first three months of 1923, three to high

school classes and one to a group of Camp Fire Girls. Two other organizations, one of which was the Cosmopolitan Club of the University of Minnesota, have held meetings in the museum rooms and the Daughters of the American Revolution held a reception there on February 23 which was attended by about 150 people. At the meeting of the Cosmopolitan Club the superintendent gave an illustrated talk on "Cosmopolitan Aspects of Minnesota History," in which he called attention to the French, Spanish, and British interest in Minnesota in the early period, to the problems connected with the international boundary, and, finally, to the various immigrant elements that have contributed to the development of the state.

An audience of about two hundred witnessed the third annual costume show in the museum on Washington's birthday. The parts in a dialogue entitled "The Great American Family," which effectively explained the costumes exhibited in a series of living pictures, were taken by Mrs. Solon J. Buck and Mr. Franklin F. Holbrook. The dialogue was written by Mr. Babcock.

Commercial concerns in the Twin Cities are making increasing use of the museum collections of the society. During the first quarter of 1923 material for display purposes has been loaned to five Twin City concerns. In addition, the first postoffice of St. Paul was exhibited at a meeting of the Fourth District Federation of Women's Clubs in the Wilder Building, St. Paul, on February 27, and at a meeting of the Fortnightly Study Club the next day in the St. Paul Public Library.

Three members of the staff, the superintendent, the curator of the museum, and the curator of manuscripts, attended the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at Oklahoma City, March 29 to 31. Mr. Buck delivered the presidential address of the organization and Miss Nute read a paper at the meeting. On the way back to St. Paul, Miss Nute stopped at St. Louis to make an inventory of material for Minnesota history in the manuscript collection of the Missouri Historical Society. Mr. Babcock went from Oklahoma City to Charleston, South Carolina, to attend a meeting of the American Museum Association, at one session of which, on April 6, he spoke on "The Training of Historical Museum Personnel."

During January, February, and March the superintendent has spoken seven times before different organizations on Minnesota history and the work of the society, one of the talks being at Hutchinson and the others in the Twin Cities. On February 26 the curator of the museum gave an illustrated talk on Minnesota history before the Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud. The assistant superintendent has given several talks on Minnesota history during the quarter, and on March 27 he addressed a conference of high school teachers at the university on the teaching of Minnesota history in the high schools and explained a syllabus which he has prepared to facilitate this work. This syllabus has been mimeographed by the college of education of the university.

#### ACCESSIONS

The work of reproducing the photostatic copies of the American Fur Company's letter books which have been borrowed from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin has been completed (see *ante*, p. 61). The material consists of copies of official letters written between 1816 and 1828 by the company's resident agent at Mackinac, Robert Stuart, and throws much light on the activities of the company in the Northwest. The nature of the outfits sent to the several posts, the instructions to traders, the routes followed, and the rivalry with the Hudson's Bay Company are among the many subjects which may be studied in these informing fur-trade documents.

Copies are being made of two manuscript diaries of Lewis Harrington for the years 1855 and 1856 which have been loaned to the society by Mr. Harry L. Merrill of Hutchinson, a son-in-law of Harrington. The latter, a surveyor and farmer who came to Minnesota in April, 1855, from Dalton, Ohio, was one of the founders of Hutchinson, and his diaries tell of pioneer life in that community. Part of the entry for November 21, 1855, reads: "Came to Glencoe at night organized Hutchinson Co. in evening &c." On December 5, the diaryist writes: "Sent oxen out for load fixed for going to Hutchinson." On July 2, 1856, he describes a hunt in which he caught a bear. The next day he records a visit by Sioux Indians who displayed Chippewa scalps

and plunder. Other Harrington diaries, which carry the record into the sixties, will be received later from Mr. Merrill for copying.

Most of the papers left by the late Maria Sanford, whose biography was reviewed in the last number of the *BULLETIN*, are now in the possession of the society. To the two boxes of papers formerly received, five more have been added through the courtesy of Miss Mary Kirtland of Minneapolis, a niece of Miss Sanford. The manuscripts contain much valuable material which has not been used in the published biography. The society desires to build up a collection of historical materials which will illuminate all phases of the state's history, and the preservation of the papers of this prominent Minnesota woman and educator will be gratifying both to her admirers and to students of the cultural development of the Northwest. By request some of the papers are to be withheld from the public until 1931.

The collection of documents relating to the Nelson-Kindred congressional campaign of 1882 which has been received from Senator Knute Nelson through the courtesy of Mr. Elmer E. Adams of Fergus Falls is an important addition to the society's materials on the political history of Minnesota. The papers are described in footnotes 10, 11, and 14 of Mr. Adams' article in the present number of the *BULLETIN*.

One of Abraham Lincoln's last signatures is now, through the courtesy of Mr. Walter Clark of Minneapolis, in the custody of the society. The autograph was appended on April 12, 1865, to a commission appointing "Edwin Clark of Minnesota . . . to be Agent for the Chippewas of the Mississippi, Pillager and Lake Winnebagoish bands, and the Indians of Red Lake and Pembina."

A manuscript copy of an autobiography entitled "Forty Years of Journalism" has been presented by the author, Mr. Frank A. Carle of Minneapolis. College days at the University of Michigan, a newspaper reporter's training, sharp political campaigns of the eighties and nineties, and reminiscences of prominent men and women are among the many interesting topics discussed by

the author. Mr. Carle's long acquaintance with the Twin Cities and his experiences in connection with local journalism add value and interest to the account of his experiences, and his unusually varied and rich friendships lend human flavor to his pages.

A copy of a paper on "The Friendly Ojibways of the Lake Superior Country" has been presented to the society by its author, Mr. William E. Culkin, who read it at the annual meeting of the Old Settlers of the Head of the Lakes in Duluth on December 13. Through the courtesy of Mr. Culkin the society has received also a manuscript copy of Mr. J. H. Darling's paper on "The Development of Lake Superior," which was read at the January meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Several papers relating to F. O. Nilsson, a Baptist clergyman exiled from Sweden because of his religious beliefs, have been presented by Mr. Swen Bernard of St. Paul. Nilsson came to the United States in 1853 and was a missionary in Houston County, Minnesota. A short account of Nilsson, pictures of his birthplace and of himself, and a photograph of a petition for the removal of the Swedish sentence of exile are included in the gift.

A collection of Civil War letters has been presented by Mr. Nelson Flint of North St. Paul. The letters, which were written by Mr. Flint's father, Frank S. Flint of Benton County, are accompanied by a number of old deeds and other family papers, and three issues of the *Winchester Army Bulletin*, a newspaper printed by the Union forces at Winchester, Tennessee, in the summer of 1863.

Several valuable additions have been made recently to the society's large picture collection. Mrs. Cora N. Elwell of Los Angeles, California, has presented a framed crayon portrait of her father, the late Calvin A. Tuttle, who came to Minnesota as a millwright to assist in the erection of the first sawmill at the Falls of St. Anthony. A photographic copy of a crayon portrait of Judge Isaac N. Cardozo, the acquisition of whose papers was noted in the February BULLETIN, has been presented by his daughter, Miss Ellen Cardozo of St. Paul. A set of lantern slides of the mayors of St. Paul from 1854 to 1923 has been received

from Mr. Caryl Spiller, director of the St. Paul Institute. The collection is complete save for a portrait of John E. Warren, who served as mayor of the city in 1863. The Honorable Ray P. Chase, state auditor, has turned over to the society sixty cuts for the maps and illustrations in his recent report on state parks. A number of these were made from pictures in the society's collection.

A set of plates for a series of base maps of Minnesota showing county divisions for each decennial year from 1850 to 1900 has been presented by the General Alumni Association of the University of Minnesota. The plates were made originally in connection with the preparation of Dr. Edward V. Robinson's book entitled *Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota*, which was published by the university in 1915. The society has had a supply of maps run off from each of the plates, and they are now available for the use of students of Minnesota history.

A valuable file of the *Madison Weekly Democrat*, an important Wisconsin newspaper, has been received from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in exchange for the file of a Minnesota newspaper. The twenty-four volumes received cover the period from 1872 to 1905, with some omissions.

A gift of 30 books and nearly 150 pamphlets has been received from the Minnesota society of the Sons of the American Revolution, through its secretary, Mr. Charles H. Bronson, and Mr. Herbert C. Varney, both of St. Paul.

A scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, programs, and announcements relating to the Minnesota society of the Sons of the Revolution for the period from 1892 to the present has been presented by that organization through its secretary, Mr. J. B. Beals of St. Paul.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

A thoughtful article on "State Historical Societies," by A. H. Shearer, is printed in the *Quarterly Journal* of the New York State Historical Association for October, 1922. The author compares state historical societies throughout the country as regards their discharge of four primary functions: "the interesting of people in the history of their state or locality," the correlation of the work of local historical societies, the preservation of records, and the issuing of publications.

An article on "The State and Historical Work," by Clarence E. Carter, which is published in the *Ohio History Teachers' Journal* for January, is an argument for more adequate state support of historical work in Ohio. The writer discusses the historical activities of many other states, including Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan.

An English periodical, the *Library Association Record*, carries an article in its August, 1922, number on the subject of "Collaboration in Historical Research," by Joan Wake. The writer urges collaboration on a wide scale, not only of public libraries and "record societies," but of universities, secondary and elementary schools, educational authorities, official and private custodians of records, and other institutions and individuals. The reason for such wide collaboration is found not merely in the "modern cry for organisation," but in the need of filling in with local details the framework of social and economic history.

A varied and interesting program contributed to the success of the sixteenth annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, which was held at Oklahoma City from March 29 to 31. The presidential address was delivered by the superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, Dr. Solon J. Buck, who took as his subject, "Progress and Possibilities of Mississippi Valley History." Minnesota was also represented on the program by Miss Grace Lee Nute, whose paper on "A Filibustering Expedition of 1836," dealt with the same subject



which she discussed at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society in January. At the session devoted to the general subject of state and local historical societies "Developing State Consciousness Through Historical Work" was discussed by Floyd C. Shoemaker; "Publication Activities of a State Historical Society," by Benjamin F. Shambaugh; and "The State Survey: Methods and Possibilities," by Herbert A. Kellar. Among the numerous other papers read at the meeting were: "The Economic Basis of the Populist Movement in Iowa," by H. C. Nixon; "Voluntary Military Organizations Just Previous to the Civil War," by Theodore G. Gronert; and "The Mercenary Factor in the Creation of the Union Army, 1861-1865," by Fred A. Shannon.

An article on "Old Franklin: A Frontier Town of the Twenties," by Jonas Viles, published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March, demonstrates the historical possibilities in the careful study of typical small frontier communities by detailing the story of one Missouri town. The *Proceedings* of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association for 1920-21 contains a paper on "State and Local History," by Clarence H. McClure, and a suggestive article on "Popularizing State History," by Floyd Shoemaker. In the latter the methods employed by the State Historical Society of Missouri are described. "Popularizing history, especially state history," writes the author, "bears or should bear no import of provincial chauvinism. The latter is, in fact, usually strongest and most damaging where accurate history has not been democratized."

The *Transactions* of the Illinois State Historical Society for 1921 contains an article on "The Influence of Illinois in the Development of Abraham Lincoln," by William E. Barton. An essay on *Abraham Lincoln, Lawyer*, by Charles W. Moores, has been issued as volume 7, number 10 of the Indiana Historical Society *Publications*. Students of Lincoln will be interested in a new book by Nathaniel Wright Stephenson entitled *Lincoln: An Account of His Personal Life, Especially of Its Springs of Action as Revealed and Deepened by the Ordeal of War* (Indianapolis, 1922. 474 p.). The publication of a series of articles entitled

"In the Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln," by Ida M. Tarbell, was begun in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of February 18.

*The Jesuits, 1534-1921: A History of the Society of Jesus from Its Foundation to the Present Time* is the title of a volume by Thomas J. Campbell in which the entire story of the Jesuits and their world-wide activities is reviewed (New York, 1921. 937 p.). The broad scope of the work has forced the author to allot only a few pages to the history of the Jesuits in North America. Such names as Allouez, Menard, and Marquette are mentioned, but the Minnesota reader will look in vain for the names of Guignas and De Gonnor, for example, the two Jesuit fathers who accompanied La Perrière in 1727 and established the first Christian mission on Minnesota soil. If the book presents little information about the Jesuit missionaries to the Middle West, it does supply a broad account of Jesuit backgrounds, written in scholarly and interesting fashion by a present-day Jesuit.

Despite its general title, a Johns Hopkins University monograph on *The Canadian Reciprocity Treaty of 1854* (Baltimore, 1922. 96 p.), by Charles C. Tansill, contains nothing on the operation or abrogation of the treaty. The book is really a study of the making of the Elgin-Marcy treaty or a chapter in the life of William L. Marcy. The author apparently has made no use of some important official reports on the effects of the treaty upon Canadian relations in the twelve years after 1854, a subject of interest to students of Minnesota's relations to the Canadian Northwest.

The social customs of the Hidatsa, a Siouan tribe which, for protection, allied itself with the Mandan and lived with them on the Knife River in what is now North Dakota, are described in a profusely illustrated little volume entitled *Waheenee, An Indian Girl's Story*, by Gilbert L. Wilson (St. Paul, 1921. 189 p.). Although the stories which make up the book are told for children, they are also of interest to scientists and historians; for the author, who is a professor of anthropology at Macalester College, St. Paul, collected them in connection with a scientific study of the tribe.

Captain Fred A. Bill's latest contribution to the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, is a lengthy abstract of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Ellet's *Summer Rambles in the West* (New York, 1853). It begins in the *Post* for February 17 and consists of copious quotations bound together by Captain Bill's comments. "Rafting on the Upper River in the Old Days" by Captain J. W. Darrah, the opening installment of which appears in the *Post* for February 24, is a series of reminiscences of an early riverman.

An admirable summary of the economic history of the Northwest, with special reference to the development of the metropolitan area which centers in the Twin Cities, forms a part of *An Introduction to Economic History*, by Norman S. B. Gras (New York, 1922. 350 p.). Of Minneapolis and St. Paul the author writes, "Still administratively separate, they are, and long have been, a single economic unit, performing the one great function of concentrating in themselves the economic life of a vast area." The book is published as a volume in *Harper's Historical Series*, edited by Guy Stanton Ford.

Numerous speeches and papers, including a short account of "The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Deep Waterway," by Henry B. Nolte, and an address on "Northwest Development," by John S. McLain, are printed in the *Proceedings* of the fifty-sixth annual convention of the Minnesota Editorial Association.

An historical pageant is to be given at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, in June to commemorate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the Mississippi by Jolliet and Marquette.

The leading article in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for March is a delightful essay on "Wisconsin," by William Ellery Leonard, in which the author, a poet, writes down in glowing phrases his interpretation of the Badger State and its past. The penetrating study of "The Yankee and the Teuton in Wisconsin," by Joseph Schafer, is continued with a comparison of the two groups with reference to their distinctive traits as farmers. Several "America letters" written by Jacob and Ulrich Bühler in the period from 1847 to 1877, describing their journey to America and their experiences in Wisconsin, are translated and

published under the title, "A Swiss Family in the New World." The originals were located in Switzerland by the translator, Mr. Lowell J. Ragatz, a descendant of Jacob Bühler. Doubtless many packets of letters written by immigrants in Minnesota to friends and relatives in the Old World are still in existence, and would, if found and translated, throw interesting light upon some phases of Minnesota history.

A pamphlet on *The Draper Collection of Manuscripts*, by Joseph Schafer, has been issued by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin as a separate from the *Proceedings* of the society for 1922. The remarkable collection of sources gathered by Dr. Lyman C. Draper about the middle of the last century should be kept intact and whole where it now is preserved, open to all investigators, as Dr. Schafer wisely argues.

In the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for January, two important articles by Louis B. Schmidt, entitled "The Westward Movement of the Corn Growing Industry in the United States" and "An Unworked Field in Mississippi Valley History," are published. In the latter Mr. Schmidt points out the possibilities of the economic history of agriculture as a field for intensive study. The same magazine contains a long article on the "History of the Office of County Superintendent of Schools in Iowa," by Jay J. Sherman.

The Indiana Historical Commission has brought out as volume 2 in the series of *Indiana World War Records* a comprehensive study of how Indiana met the financial problems connected with its participation in the World War. The book, which is entitled *The War Purse of Indiana; The Five Liberty Loans and War Savings and Thrift Campaigns in Indiana during the World War*, is the work of Walter Greenough.

An article on "How Massachusetts Raised her Troops in the Revolution," by Jonathan Smith, in the *Proceedings* of the Massachusetts Historical Society for 1921-22, should be of interest, for purposes of comparison, to the readers of Dr. John D. Hicks's study in the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN for February, 1918, of "The Organization of the Volunteer Army in 1861 with Special Reference to Minnesota."

Volume 20 in the *Publications* of the Nebraska State Historical Society (Lincoln, 1922. 400 p.) consists of abstracts and quotations from the *Missouri Republican*, the *Missouri Intelligencer*, and other newspapers for the period from 1808 to 1861 — all the material relating to "the valleys or plains of the Missouri and Arkansas rivers (comprehensively The Nebraska Country) and of the contiguous mountain region." The items are printed in a chronological sequence, and since there is no table of contents, the index must be used if the reader desires to pursue any one topic, such as the fur trade or the Indians or the mails, through the entire period. Probably some other scheme of organization would have added to the scholarly value of the work, but the reader is left in no doubt as to the historical value of the contemporary newspaper reports and views which are thus assembled; and the conglomeration doubtless constitutes, as the editor, Mr. Albert Watkins, observes, a "varied, vivid and often flash lit history."

"A Visit to Red River, An Account Written in 1878 by an American Who Visited the Settlement" is the title of an interesting document published in the *Beaver* for November and December.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

Next year will bring the seventy-fifth anniversaries of the organization of Minnesota Territory, of the establishment of the Minnesota Historical Society, and of the beginning of printing in Minnesota. Shall these and other events of 1849 be commemorated in 1924?

The ninetieth birthday of Dr. Folwell, which was celebrated on February 14, occasioned many newspaper articles dealing with the long career and varied achievements of the first president of the University of Minnesota. The keynote of these articles is sounded in the editorial of the *Minneapolis Journal* on February 14 entitled "Dr. Folwell, Young at Ninety." A special "Folwell Birthday Number" of the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*, dated February 13, contains an appreciation of Dr. Folwell as "Neighbor, Friend, Teacher," by W. F. Webster, and a brief resumé of his career by E. B. Pierce.

"Myth-making and romancing have served to make many of the pioneer figures shadowy and unreal," according to an editorial in the *Minneapolis Journal* of January 17, occasioned by Dr. Folwell's address at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society. "Much better are they when pictured, as Cromwell thought men should be pictured, with their warts and wrinkles. They may thus lose some glamor, but they gain in reality."

In an article entitled "The Frontier and Local History," published in the *Hamline Review* for February, Mr. Theodore C. Blegen discusses the contribution of the pioneers, with special reference to Minnesota, to the study of American history "from the bottom up." The origins of the Minnesota Historical Society and particularly the views of Governor Ramsey regarding the collection of historical records are emphasized.

On May 15, 1922, a monument erected by the state of Minnesota was dedicated in the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in commemoration of 164 Minnesota soldiers in the Civil War who are buried there. Appropriate addresses were delivered on the occasion by General C. C. Andrews, Governor J. A. O. Preus, Mr. Henry B. Dike, Mr. Levi Longfellow, and others. These speeches, together with a list of the honored dead, are printed in the *Report of Minnesota Commission Appointed to Erect a Monument in the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks, Mo.* (1922. 38 p.). The Governor's address consists of an historical review of the service of Minnesota troops in Missouri during the Civil War.

The duplication and conventionality of the names applied to Minnesota lakes are pointed out by Perry S. Williams in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 18 as an argument for a constructive plan of renaming many lakes. In a letter published in the same newspaper for March 25 the assistant superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society calls attention to the fact that Minnesota boasts no less than ninety-nine Mud lakes, eighty-four Long lakes, seventy-five Rice lakes, thirty-five Twin lakes, and, in lesser numbers, an abundance of

Round, Clear, Bass, Crooked, Sand, Silver, Rush, Turtle, and Spring lakes. Careful study of the historical associations of a particular lake and its surroundings should precede its renaming. Local historical societies might find in this matter of place names a field for interesting work. The period of Indian occupation, the story of the French explorations and of the fur trade, and the history of Minnesota in its later development offer unusual opportunities for the selection of names that are historically significant and charming in sound. The historical society has indicated its willingness to coöperate with local communities with a view to finding appropriate place names.

In an address delivered in Minneapolis on January 5 Dr. William W. Folwell proposed the erection of a suitable monument in honor of Henry H. Sibley. He suggested that the state of Minnesota should acquire "an ample park space including Pilot Knob, just back of Mendota village . . . and erect there, within a few minutes walk of his old Mendota home, under the dome of the open sky, an imperishable monument of granite and bronze worthy of the man and of the state he named."

As an argument in favor of the expert administration of state parks and the proper marking of historic sites therein, which are being advocated by state auditor Ray P. Chase before the 1923 legislature, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of February 4 cites the case of the Birch Cooley battlefield. According to this article a monument bearing an erroneous inscription, erected on a site near the battlefield in 1894, has remained in its original state, although the land on which the battle actually occurred was purchased by the state in the following year. The preservation of historic sites of another type—the "original canoe trails in the north woods, over which white men first traveled to explore the wilds of northern Minnesota"—is proposed in a bill introduced in the legislature by Senator Fred Bessette on January 10.

"Five Objections Against the Kensington Rune Stone," all of a linguistic nature, are answered by Hjalmar R. Holand in *Scandinavian Studies and Notes* for November, 1922.



An article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for February 18 points out certain similarities between the legislature of 1859-60 and that of 1923. It is based upon a comparison made by Lieutenant Governor Louis L. Collins, which reveals the facts that legislative procedure has changed but little during the intervening period and that the proportion of farmers, attorneys, and foreign-born members is about the same now as it was in 1859.

The story of Jules Standing Buffalo, the son of Chief Standing Buffalo of the Sisseton band of the Sioux, and his journey to Washington to claim annuities which are said to have accumulated since the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, is told by Buffalo Child Long Lance in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for March 18. Standing Buffalo is one of a group of Sisseton Indians who escaped to Canada after the massacre. His father was an unsuccessful claimant in the Sisseton and Wahpeton claims case some twenty years ago.

The comprehensive series of articles by W. H. Brill on the highways of Minnesota continues in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune* from January 14 to March 25 with detailed descriptions of the first six of the trunk highways of the state. These articles contain much miscellaneous historical information, which is largely introduced in order to explain the origins of place names along the highways and is based mainly on Dr. Upham's *Minnesota Geographic Names; Their Origin and Historic Significance*.

The effect of Major Joseph R. Brown's "steam wagon" upon road legislation in Minnesota is noted in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 18 (see *ante*, 4: 190). The reader's attention is called to an act of the legislature of 1870 providing for roads specially constructed to accommodate Major Brown's strange vehicle. The illustrations include a picture of the "steam wagon" and a portrait of its inventor.

In a letter to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, published on January 28, Captain Fred A. Bill summarizes the results of his investigations concerning the "Virginia," the first steamboat to come up the Mississippi to Fort St. Anthony, now Fort Snelling. Captain Bill accepts May 10, 1823, as the date of its arrival.

*The Minnesota State Art Society*, an interesting new Minnesota publication, made its appearance in February. The first number contains a brief historical sketch of the state art society and also a statement of the aims of the organization. Short articles appear on "The Women's Clubs of Minnesota and the State Art Society," "The Minneapolis Institute of Arts," and "The Art Forum." In the *Bulletin* of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for March there is a brief article on "Early Days of the Society," prepared by Dr. William W. Folwell, who served as president of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts during the first five years of its existence.

A scholarly study of "Special Legislation in Minnesota," by William Anderson, appears in the January and February numbers of the *Minnesota Law Review*.

The diary of Colonel George E. Leach, commander of the 151st United States Field Artillery in the World War, is appearing serially in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune*. It opens with an entry for September 3, 1917, just before the "Gopher Gunners" left for France, in the *Tribune* for March 18; and the second installment carries the story to February 26, 1918, when Colonel Leach "went to the front line and saw some of the enemy positions for the first time." Later comments, which apparently have been written by Colonel Leach, are introduced in parentheses in the newspaper version.

#### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

Two recent meetings of the St. Louis County Historical Society, on January 2 and March 5, testify to the activity of this new organization. At the January meeting a paper on the "Early Navigation of Lake Superior and the Bringing of Supplies to the Head of the Lakes," by Trevanion W. Hugo, was read in the author's absence by George W. Buck. Other papers were presented on the "Early Physical History of Lake Superior and the Lake Superior Region," by J. H. Darling; the "History and Development of the Vegetable and Plant Life of the County," by Pauline Alford; and "The Early Literature of the County or the Writing of the Early Pioneers," by Alice M.

Dunlop. Four papers were read at the March meeting: the "History of Duluth Harbor," by J. D. Ensign; the "Story of Immigration to St. Louis County," by Albert B. Clarfield; the "Climate of Duluth and St. Louis County," by H. W. Richardson; and Miss Nute's study of the Dickson expedition of 1836 (see *ante*, p. 116-118).

A bit of legislation which passed the Minnesota Senate on March 27 and the House on April 4 may mark the beginning of a movement of great importance for historical work in Minnesota. This is an act which authorizes the county commissioners of St. Louis County to appropriate \$2,500 a year for the support of a county historical society approved by the Minnesota Historical Society. Several states have taken steps to promote local history through legislation of this character. If the present measure proves valuable in its application to St. Louis County, an amendment probably can be secured at some future session of the legislature to extend the provisions of the act to other counties.

A series of articles on the "Early History of Parke Township," by J. S. Hosack, beginning in the *Clay County Herald* of Hawley for February 16, is reprinted from the files of the same newspaper for 1900.

In an article on "Politics in 1879 to 1886, with Some Personal Recollections and Observations," in the *Morris Tribune* for January 19, Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown describes local political contests in Stevens County during the period indicated. Considerable attention is given to the Stevens County aspects of the Nelson-Kindred campaign of 1882.

"Reminiscences of Wabasha, 1850-1872," by a pioneer physician, Dr. P. C. Remondino, now of San Diego, California, appear in the *Wabasha Herald* from November 9 to March 29.

*Quill and Scroll*, a publication issued by the Chatfield High School, contains in its February number a series of essays which are printed under the general title, "History of Chatfield." This project in local history was undertaken by a senior English class

under the supervision of Miss Margaret Snyder. Each of the printed papers is signed by two members of the class. The scope of the work as a whole may be indicated by the topics of the essays or chapters: "Exploration and Land Office Days," "Indian Occupation and Early Game Life," "Naming the Town and Political Organization," "Early New England Settlers," "Prominent Figures," "Immigrants to Chatfield," "Social Life and Customs," "Railroads and Industries," "Chatfield in the Civil War," and "The School and the Press." In an introductory note the editor writes of the student authors, "They have drawn their material from a variety of sources, both older printed accounts, the personal reminiscences of Chatfield's older inhabitants, and some original documents to which they have been given access. They . . . are hopeful that their amateur efforts, which they have enjoyed, may perhaps help to arouse a fresh interest in the history of the community of which they are a part." In the course of the work the class learned of the existence of several manuscript diaries and of one important general collection of historical papers. The essays bear the marks of careful investigation and constitute a genuine contribution to the history of Chatfield. Their special value lies, however, in the fact that they are the work of Minnesota high school students and thus constitute a concrete illustration of the possibilities in local history study by high school classes.

A series of biographical sketches, entitled "Pioneers of Deerwood," appears in the *Deerwood Enterprise*, beginning with its issue of November 24. The articles, which are the work of the editor, A. J. Crone, are based upon careful investigation and should prove a valuable contribution to the history of Crow Wing County.

The past of Olmsted County will be reviewed in an historical pageant to be staged in connection with the county fair in August. Plans for the pageant are described in the *Rochester Daily Post and Record* for January 17.

Installments of a "History of Martin County: A Detailed and True Account of Its Early Settlement by Wm. H. Budd,

One of Its Oldest Settlers," have been appearing daily in the *Martin County Independent* of Fairmont since February 16. The narrative opens with the arrival of the first settlers in 1856. It is particularly interesting as a record of the early settlers of the county and a description of their mode of living. Due consideration is given to the Spirit Lake Massacre of 1857 and to the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, and the results of these uprisings in Martin County are noted.

Charles F. Collisson's feature stories about dairying and agriculture which appear in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune* include, on February 18 and 25, two articles on the history of the Northwest School of Agriculture and Experiment Station at Crookston.

The Richfield Women's Club exhibited the "treasured heirlooms of old families" of its community in connection with a "Richfield exposition" at the Roosevelt School in Minneapolis on March 20 and 21, according to an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 18. Such an exhibit of the relics of pioneer days is of genuine value, for it conveys to the onlooker a sense of reality and thus serves to arouse historical interest.

The seventy-fourth anniversary of the founding of the "first Methodist Episcopal church in Minnesota," the Central Park Methodist Church of St. Paul, occasions a brief article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for January 7, in which the history of the church is sketched. On January 11 the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the People's Church of St. Paul was celebrated. The First Baptist Church of Minneapolis celebrated during the first week of March the seventieth anniversary of its founding. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Swedish Hospital of Minneapolis was observed on March 23.

A sketch of the history of the Sibley House at Mendota, by Beatrice Longfellow, assisted by Mrs. Frank H. Jarrard, is printed in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for February 25.

Recollections of some early employees are included in an illustrated article about the old Nicollet House in the *Minne-*

*apolis Journal* for February 25. The occasion for its publication is the fact that this Minneapolis landmark is to be wrecked to make way for a new and modern hotel. In its issue for March 25 the *Journal* prints the reminiscences of Mrs. Christine Eustis, the wife of the first owner, concerning the "official opening" of the Nicollet House on May 26, 1858.

To mark the beginning of "Music Week" in Minneapolis, the *Minneapolis Tribune* for January 7 publishes a group of articles dealing with the history of music in that city. An account of the growth of the department of music of the University of Minnesota is contributed by its chairman, Mr. Carlyle M. Scott; and an outline of the development of the McPhail School of Music and Dramatic Art is included. The oldest member of the Apollo Club, Mr. George B. Eustis, sketches the progress of that organization during twenty-seven years; and two pioneer musicians, Mr. Alfred M. Shuey and Mr. Willard Patton, recall some of the outstanding events in the musical record of the city.

The modest beginnings in Minneapolis of the use of two modern conveniences which today are looked upon as necessities are described in articles in the *Minneapolis Journal* for February 25. One tells of the first telephones installed in the city in 1877 and the difficulties encountered by those who used them. Of special interest is a list of the "first subscribers" who installed telephones after the Northwestern Telephone Company was organized in 1878. In the second article Mr. J. D. Robb relates the story of the automobile which he purchased in 1902 — one of the first three conveyances of its type to appear in Minneapolis. A picture of Mr. Robb seated in the automobile is published with the article.

The statement that "seventy-five years ago Ard Godfrey . . . started Minneapolis' first building boom" by erecting the house which still stands in Richard Chute Square introduces an article on the subsequent growth of the city in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for March 18.

A description of St. Paul in 1860 by Ossian E. Dodge is reprinted in the *St. Paul Daily News* of February 4 from the issue

for June, 1860, of a magazine edited by the author and published in Cleveland — *Dodge's Western Literary Museum*. Two years after writing the article the author made St. Paul his home. In a letter published in the *St. Paul Daily News* for January 28, W. C. Graham of Tacoma, Washington, describes the St. Paul that he knew in 1861.

Among the incidents related recently by Benjamin Backnumber in his sketches of "St. Paul Before This," published in the Sunday issues of the *St. Paul Daily News*, are the following: "Alexander Ramsey's second election to the United States senate, without a vote to spare in the Republican nomination caucus," January 7 and 14; a quarrel in 1851 between James M. Goodhue and Daniel A. Robertson in the columns of the newspapers — both Democratic — which they edited, January 28 and February 14; and the "naming of Mendota," March 18. Brief biographies of the Reverend John Sinclair, pastor twenty-five years ago of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, February 18; and of Jacob Schindler and Joseph Bingham, two early newspaper men, February 25 and March 11, also are included.

A brief outline of the history of the Merchants Hotel of St. Paul is included in an illustrated article by Jay W. Ludden in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of January 14.

Memories of Eugene N. Larpenteur, who in 1849 settled on a farm in what is now the Midway district of St. Paul, are revived in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for March 4. A picture of his homestead, sketched by his son, James, and a portrait of his daughter, Mrs. Emilie Zenzius of St. Paul, accompany the article. The career of another St. Paul pioneer, Vital Guerin, who established a farm in what has become the very heart of the city, is the subject of another article in the *Pioneer Press* of the same date.

In celebration of the sixty-ninth anniversary of the incorporation of the city of St. Paul a series of historical tableaux was presented and early views of the city were shown on a screen at the St. Paul Auditorium on March 3. During February the St. Paul Institute conducted a series of Saturday afternoon story



hours on "Historic St. Paul," illustrated with lantern slides, in order to prepare the children of the city for the celebration. The newspapers performed a similar service for adults by publishing illustrated articles on the early history of the city. The growth of St. Paul between 1840 and the late fifties is outlined by Elliott J. Tarbell in the *St. Paul Daily News* for January 21, and in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for the same date a "brief survey of St. Paul's industrial career" is presented. The latter subject is elaborated in the *Pioneer Press* of March 4, which prints an extensive series of articles about pioneer business houses of St. Paul.



